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THE TIMES

No. 65,686

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1996

TODAY

10P

TOMORROW

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ON TUESDAY
FOR ONLY
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10P

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VILLA DEADLOCKED

Top match report PAGE 25

PLUS: THE GREATEST

GOAL I EVER SAW

Rob Hughes begins

our series PAGE 31

TODAY

10P

Blair tries to steer party back on course

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR will today try to put the Labour party back on course after a week of turmoil by ordering his troops to turn their fire on the Tories and away from each other.

The Labour leader, exasperated by lapses of discipline and the media's concentration on the party's future links with the unions, will use a speech in the City to encourage it to lift its sights beyond the present difficulties to the election battleground.

Yesterday Mr Blair was plunged into a new row when unions and leftwingers rounded on the frontbench spokesman Kim Howells for suggesting that the word "socialism" should lose its place in the party's vocabulary.

The leadership tried to dismiss the furore by saying that Mr Blair regarded it as a "lot of fuss about nothing", but it was again

Straw and David Blunkett — to make heavyweight policy speeches in the run-up to the party conference in two weeks' time.

But he will also show that he is unbowed by last week's clashes with the unions. He will make further overtures to the business community, and his allies emphasise that he believes Labour's relationship with business to be as important as that with the unions.

This was underlined yesterday when it emerged that Labour had received £500,000 from Bob Gavron, who built up Britain's biggest independent printing company. He said Mr Blair was "transforming" the party's relations with industry.

Mr Blair's speech to the London International Financial Futures Exchange will set out what he calls four millennium challenges for Britain and the importance of electing a Labour government to achieve them. But the message behind the address will be that with both the media and the Conservatives treating Labour as a government-in-waiting, everyone in the party must avoid saying or doing things that might prevent the election of a Labour government and its hopes of higher living standards for all.

Because he is trying to refocus his party's vision on what he sees as "the big picture", he is not expected to make direct references to the troubles that have beset the party leadership recently.

But Mr Blair and his aides believe that the significance of the speech has grown considerably in the light of the events of the past few days. Having been forced to deny that he plans to sever Labour's links with the unions, Mr Blair will have found Mr Howells's remarks yesterday.

The episode produced another bout of squabbling, with John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, telling Mr Howells to "keep his mouth shut" and

Continued on page 2, col 6

Leading article, and Letters, page 21



"I've decided to cut all my union ties"

embarrassed by the spectacle of Labour politicians and union leaders squaring up to each other.

Tonight Mr Blair will make plain in his speech that his MPs should spend all their energies on promoting Labour policies, particularly those to make people better off, and exposing the Conservative record.

He will announce that he has asked all of the Shadow Cabinet "big hitters" — Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, John Prescott, Jack



Divorced Kathleen MacPhee, a mother of three who also vanished last week

Church call to missing bishop

By Shirley English

THE Roman Catholic Church in Scotland yesterday renewed appeals to its missing bishop, the Right Rev Roderick Wright, 56, to get in touch, amid growing speculation that he may have gone away with a divorce.

Churches across his sprawling diocese of Argyll and the Isles held special prayers for the bishop, who vanished from his

home in Oban last Monday and has not been heard from since.

His close friend, Kathleen MacPhee, 40, a mother-of-three and nurse at Belford Hospital in Fort William, went missing on the same day. But some parishioners in Oban yesterday believed he may have gone on retreat to mourn his sister, who died of cancer.

Emergency meeting, page 3



The missing Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

Court orders women to have caesareans

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge has approved caesarean births against the mother's will in two cases which appear to give courts much wider powers to impose surgery without a patient's consent.

Until now, courts' powers to sanction surgery have been limited to where a woman is mentally ill or unconscious. In all other cases, judges have held that if a patient understands treatment and is competent to make a decision, he or she has a right to refuse.

But in July Mr Justice Johnson overruled two women — one in

Rochdale and one in Norfolk — who did not want caesareans after doctors said they were at risk of rupturing their wombs, putting their own and their babies' lives in danger.

The rulings have now been criticised by the barrister Barbara Hewson, who said that judges seemed keen to extend the categories in which non-consensual surgery could be authorised.

Ms Hewson, who is chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers, intends to raise the cases at a conference on the British Way of Birth next Saturday. She said: "It seems extraordinary that judges are assuming they have the power to decide that women can be exposed to the

risk of a caesarean — potentially fatal surgery."

In the case of the Rochdale Healthcare Trust, the woman, known as C, was in labour and refused a caesarean delivery. She had previously suffered painful after-effects from a previous caesarean and insisted on trying normal labour. Lawyers for the hospital decided to go to court when labour was not working and she was at risk of a womb rupture, through her scar.

Bertie Leigh, a partner with Hempsons, the trust's lawyers who have set up a legal hotline to help hospitals in such circumstances, said: "We did not ask for this order: we placed the facts before the court and asked them

whether they wished to make an order."

It was wrong, he said, to suggest that doctors and lawyers were pressing for such powers. "Given that, if he had said no, two people might have died, then it seemed to me that I would not have made a decision contrary to that made by the judge." But he agreed that the decision appeared to have pushed the boundaries of such cases in that the woman was clearly regarded as "competent" by the medical staff. The judge, in his ruling, held she was incompetent and unable to weigh up the situation to make an informed choice. In the second case, a woman was taken into hospital

Continued on page 2, col 1

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

MY LIFE AFTER M15

Stella Rimington, former head of M15, writing for the first time, page 15

PLUS:

Up to 50% off weekend breaks
Token 1: page 11



TOMORROW

BRIDGING THE GAP

Part two of our guide to the gap year
PLUS: 24-page guide to 350 bargain breaks



WEDNESDAY

FASHION

Donna Karan's designs for men

PLUS:

Win an Internet management course, in Interface



THURSDAY

FILMS

The 12 million dollar woman: Demi Moore in 'Striptease'

PLUS: The best jobs in our Appointments section



FRIDAY

POP

Better than Britpop? Ann Scanlon meets Crispin Hunt

PLUS: The Education pages



SATURDAY

FROM LUCKY JIM TO LOLITA

Part one of 100 Key Books, in the Magazine



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The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Now pet lovers can stroke the cat sitting on the laptop

By Robin Young

PEOPLE who are allergic to cats are being given the chance to pet and foster a kitten of their own. A new CD-Rom to be released during National Cat Week, introduces virtual reality cats as interactive computer pets.

Kept within the confines of the

household PC, the computer cats are pre-programmed to grow on a daily basis, and are provided with artificial intelligences which give them distinct personalities. Yet they are guaranteed never to soil the living room, tear the curtains or get stuck up trees.

Cats: Your Computer Pets from Mindscape International

costs £14.99 and is a rarity in an interactive CD market dominated by games of violence and mass destruction. Mindscape says it should prove the ideal way of introducing children to good pet care.

The CD-Rom provides computer users with choice from a basket of five kittens. Once adopted by

clicking the computer mouse, a cat can be named or changed to a different colour and can be stroked, petted and brushed. It will stretch, roll, arch or preen and emit purrs of pleasure or yowls of indignation. The cats must also be fed but if overindulged they will grow too fat. If undernourished they become

this and miserable. An electronic cheese can also be dangled in front of a mousehole to coax out a remote-controlled rodent which the cat will chase round the screen.

And, when so minded, computer cats will like their living equivalents, wander off and do their own thing.



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DEBENHAMS

Labour plans to divert child benefit to poor pupils

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR, Gordon Brown and David Blunkett are to hold urgent talks this week to settle Labour's plans to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds and use the money instead to help poorer children staying on at school.

After a long-running dispute, the meeting is expected to decide that new educational allowances of up to £20 a week — much higher than the current rate of child benefit — should be paid to parents in poorer families in order to help with food

and accommodation costs at home. The issue is one of the most sensitive facing the Labour leadership, and the plan to end child benefit for all older children at school faces challenge, and possibly defeat, at the annual party conference in two weeks.

Its importance is underlined by Mr Blair's decision to hold a meeting this week to finalise the plan with his Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Education Secretary before it is published in a pre-conference document, probably next week. Mr Brown has argued consistently that the party must face up to

tough choices and has won backing from some on the Left for his proposed reform, one of Labour's few specific proposals that would redistribute resources from the wealthy to the poor.

Scrapping the benefit should reallocate £600 million which would be reallocated to the children of less wealthy families. Mr Brown has stressed that in ending benefit for all school-leavers, he is not breaching the principle of a universal benefit, which applies for children under school-leaving age. Mothers of children who have left school do not receive child benefit, even though

unemployed youngsters under 18 have no automatic right to income support.

Some shadow cabinet members argued originally that because 16 year olds are treated as adults if they leave school, those in education should be treated similarly and get the money direct. But Mr Brown is understood to have won the argument that the parents should get the money along with the discretion as to how it is spent. Such a plan would avoid the charge that children are being given state "pocket money" to stay on.

The aim of Mr Brown's reforms

has been to encourage children in poorer homes, on whom there is tremendous pressure to go out to work, to stay on at school if they and their parents so desire.

The Tories are eagerly awaiting Labour's plans to calculate how many families are likely to lose child benefit, currently running at £10.80 a week, if the education allowances are set at a figure of up to £20 a week for those in poorer families.

But Conservative policy-makers are also looking at the future of child benefit. Under ideas being considered for inclusion in the election manifesto, parents of persistent

truants could have their child benefit cut as part of a shake-up of the £90 billion social security system. Ministers are increasingly concerned at the scale of truancy and bad behaviour in schools, and surveys have revealed record numbers of children being expelled from primary schools.

Tory policy strategists are to discuss the ideas with Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. They are studying the sanctions used in France where benefit can be cut if children miss school persistently.

IRA chiefs 'meeting to plan change in strategy'

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Irish Police sources confirmed yesterday that the IRA was planning to hold a large internal conference next month, intensifying speculation that the terrorist leadership is about to embark on a major change in strategy.

The sources said they had reliable reports that the General Army Convention, the IRA's supreme authority, would meet within weeks, for only the third time in its 27-year history.

The reports came amid conflicting signals in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic about the IRA's tactics. There has been speculation for weeks that the IRA will renew its ceasefire to allow Sinn Féin to join the multi-party talks. However, recent intelligence reports have indicated that the IRA may be on the verge of a renewed mainland bombing campaign, marking either a "spectacular" attack before a truce or a return to violence.

Detectors believe that the IRA is planning to use the cover of a Sinn Féin Irish language conference in Co Donegal for its convention next month. The last convention in 1986 was held under the cover of a similar conference.

However, Lucilla Bhréanach, Sinn Féin's general secretary, yesterday categorically rejected the suggestion: "It is nonsense to suggest that a public event, which is open at all times to the media, can also be a cover for something else," she said.

It was widely believed that the IRA Army Council, which runs the terrorist organisation, declared the ceasefire in 1994 without calling a convention because it would have failed to have won support for a permanent truce. The apparent decision to call a new convention must mean that the leadership is confident that it has sufficient support for a major change in strategy.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, refused yesterday to speculate about a renewed IRA ceasefire, but said Sinn Féin remained committed to its peace strategy. He also dismissed reports of an impending IRA convention.

Unionist and Conservative MPs reacted furiously yesterday after Gerry Adams was reportedly invited to speak about his new autobiography at a press conference at the Palace of Westminster this week.

Mr Adams's publisher, Heinemann, says that Jeremy Corbyn, the left-wing Labour MP, is planning to chair a press conference in the Jubilee Room at Westminster for Mr Adams. The press conference will coincide with the publication of Mr Adams's autobiography, entitled *Before the Dawn*.

Adams refused to speculate

Howells defiant over dropping 'socialist' label

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KIM HOWELLS, the Labour frontbencher, issued a withering put-down to a trade union leader yesterday who told him to apologise for having suggested the party should ditch the word "socialism".

The spokesman on trade and industry referred to John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, general union, as "old rent-a-quote" and refused to draw back from his remarks on socialism, in yesterday's *Sunday Times*. In the face of widespread criticism from MPs and other Labour figures, they felt that he was fuelling the impression that Tony Blair has a hidden political agenda.

The term socialism should be "humanely phased out", Mr Howells had written. "I am interested only in convincing the electorate that Labour is seeking contemporary solutions to problems. If that means dropping the epithet 'socialist' so be it."

He added: "We have broken the habit of feeling guilty each time we open our mouths without first genuflecting to socialist shrines. We are campaigning to win the next election because we believe that we can make this country a better place."

"We have no need to diminish that ambition by searching for some ideological holy grail with which to embellish it." That prompted Mr Edmonds to declare: "The best thing Kim Howells could do is to keep his mouth shut, stop the childish kite-flying and concentrate on winning the election."

Mr Howells's words would have attracted less attention had not Mr Blair already been embroiled in a row about his long-term intentions for Labour. Asked if he was going to

apologise for his remarks, Mr Howells told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "Certainly not, John Edmonds... well, talk about not calling the kettle black he's got a view on everything."

He added: "We need to explain to people that we have a pragmatic approach to how best to run this country and that attaching tags to ourselves, calling ourselves socialists or laissez-faire capitalists, does no good in that respect. We must apply contemporary solutions to the problems that face us."

"I think what we mean by socialist — and many people in the Labour Party refer to themselves as socialists — is

Pay deal blow for unions

THE trade unions, reeling from reports suggesting that Tony Blair wants to cut them adrift, will suffer another blow this week when Kenneth Clarke confirms that the public sector pay bill is to be frozen for the fourth year in succession.

The announcement, which means five million public sector workers receiving pay rises only if they are found from savings in department budgets, is likely to herald a clash between the Government and some unions.

The Chancellor's announcement, which will come in his evidence to the public sector pay review bodies, signals his desire to trim up to £5 billion from existing spending plans to pave the way for tax cuts in the pre-election Budget in November.

... lots of things which are common to decent Christianity, humanism, trying to treat your neighbour as you treat yourself, looking for justice, fairness and so on."

Mr Howells's audacious treatment of Mr Edmonds was typical of a man who has rarely buttoned his lip for anyone. Mr Howells, 49, a grammar school boy from the South Wales valleys, entered the public eye during the 1984-85 miners' strike when he was South Wales research officer for the National Union of Mineworkers.

He held Arthur Scargill, the NUM President, in contempt for his handling of the strike and made no secret of it. His candour during his short career on the Labour frontbench has already caused him trouble, first with remarks criticising the party's constitutional reforms then with a tribute to market competition.

Tony Banks, another left-winger, told GMTV: "The trouble is that we are getting to the position in the Labour Party where front-bench spokesmen are saying things which are not then denied by the leadership of the Labour Party. But someone like Clare Short can say something and it is immediately jumped on. So you are left wondering whether this is all part of a softening up process."

The Labour leadership took a relaxed line on Mr Howells yesterday. After all, only two weeks ago Mr Blair called himself a social democrat. But the Labour leader has been careful not to banish the word "socialism" and has taken to interchanging the creeds of social democracy and democratic socialism.

Leading article, page 21



Sir David interviewed Mrs Major at her Cambridgeshire home. She denied playing a more active political role

Norma sets fashion record straight

By CAROL MIDDLEY

NORMA MAJOR confided to the nation yesterday what had irritated her most about the inaccurate press coverage since her husband became Prime Minister. Her white boots that had first entranced John more than 25 years ago were leather — not plastic as the newspapers had said.

"They cost me an arm and a leg," Mrs Major complained to Sir David Frost, during an interview with screened on BBC1 yesterday. From her whicker easy-chair in the conservatory of the Majors' home in Cambridgeshire, Mrs Major, 54, rejected claims that she was emerging as her husband's secret weapon in the pre-election skirmishing.

Dressed in a pale pink suit, she cut a relaxed, confident figure, very different from the shy, housewife who stood with her husband outside No

10 Downing Street six years ago. She confessed that, looking back, she wished she had not worn a rather frumpy blue suit that day. "I had two blue suits in the wardrobe, and I'd worn the first one and I was going to wear the second one on the second day. John didn't like the other one, so I wore the same one two days running. So I got hammered for wearing the same thing two days running, and the suit was perceived to be a disaster as well."

During *Norma Major: Behind Closed Doors*, Mrs Major called for the activities of intrusive photographers to be curbed. She spoke of her anger when her family were photographed with telephoto lenses this year aboard a yacht in the south of France. "I think anybody is entitled to an element of privacy. I don't



That suit: Mr Major preferred it, she said

think the public has a right to know everything and be everywhere," she said.

Tony image-makers regard Mrs Major, who has been on the campaign trail with her husband in the past fortnight,

as a trump card for Mr Major and want to capitalise on her down-to-earth approach. They believe the voters will identify with her more than with Tony Blair's wife Cherie Booth, a QC.

But asked whether she would ever be tempted to copy the wife of US Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole, who walked on to the floor of the recent party convention, proclaiming how much she loved her husband, Mrs Major insisted: "I can't think of anything that would make me want to do that, however much I might love him."

She denied she was taking a more prominent part in her husband's political life, adding: "Perhaps the difference is that maybe what I'm doing is being noticed now, but I don't think I'm about to start doing anything that I haven't been doing for the last five years."

Caesarean rulings

Continued from page 1

tal in labour after a car accident. She was not suffering from any mental disorder and felt able to instruct a solicitor. The judge ruled, however, she was not able to balance information in order to make a choice.

The two decisions are likely to spark renewed controversy over the right of patients to refuse treatment and the circumstances in which it may be overridden by courts in the interest of safeguarding life.

Ms Hewson said that Mr Justice Johnson had effectively redefined when a woman was competent to take decisions over her treatment, and had ruled that a woman in labour was not. That meant women would not feel able to

challenge medical advice.

Previous decisions have involved Jehovah's witnesses, where the court held in 1991 that as a general principle, they could not be compelled to have treatment, although the court left open the possibility of exceptional circumstances in such cases.

In 1993, the President of the Family Division, Sir Stephen Brown, was widely criticised when he sanctioned an operation on a woman whose baby was lodged transversely across her pelvis. She refused consent, believing that "God would provide".

Mr Leigh said that the latest figures showed that between 1991 and 1993 no patient had died after refusing to undergo a caesarean section.

Prince promises Queen he and Camilla will be discreet

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Prince of Wales has promised the Queen that he will keep his friendship with Camilla Parker-Bowles out of the public limelight. She will not accompany him on any official or semi-official engagements or to any public functions in connection with her work for the National Osteoporosis Society. She has worked for the charity for some time, being involved in particularly, in fund-raising in the West Country. Her mother, who died last year, suffered from the disease.

But the Prince will continue his friendship with Mrs Parker-Bowles in private, and they acknowledge that they might be spotted together. The only public profile to be sought by Mrs Parker-Bowles in coming months is likely to be in connection with her work for the National Osteoporosis Society. She has worked for the charity for some time, being involved in particularly, in fund-raising in the West Country. Her mother, who died last year, suffered from the disease.

Prince to do anything other. It would never occur to him for Camilla to accompany him on engagements."

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The Queen and John Major met at Balmoral at the weekend but it was not thought they discussed the Prince's relationship in detail. Mr Major's view is that the Royal Family should enjoy a period of calm after the turmoil of two royal divorces and that a line should now be drawn under recent events. He warned the Prince last Christmas that he could not expect to regularise his relationship with Mrs Parker-Bowles for some years without provoking a constitutional crisis. But Mr Major is being kept informed about the possible long-term reforms being discussed by senior members of the Royal Family.

Blair warns MPs

Continued from page 1

fellow MPs turning on him. The former minister Gerald Kaufman voiced the feelings in the Blair camp when he warned that anything said by a Labour spokesman that could be exploited or misinterpreted would be used for that purpose. "The only things we should say in public and private are those things which have the greatest possible chance of making Tony Blair prime minister," he said.

Mr Blair believes that Labour has become a victim of its own success and in an article yesterday, he said that the Tories were shutting down government, stoking up the economy and scaring people about Labour by "making us the incumbents".

In his speech tonight he will say that the four big challenges for the millennium are making Britain better off; making politicians more accountable and restoring Britain's world influence. The key message to get across, he believes, is that Labour will make the mass of people better off.

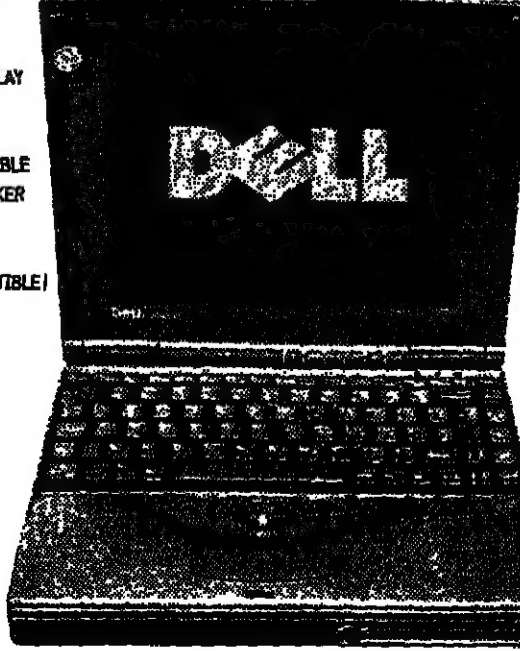
According to leadership sources, Mr Blair wants to see the party "bucking down" to fight the Tories and to "stop playing word games." But further pitfalls lie ahead at the conference — particularly over pensions. The former minister Lady Castle yesterday urged him to "quit being scared" and to restore the link between pensions and earnings.



Adams refused to speculate

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Emergency meeting held as whereabouts of clergyman and nurse remain a mystery

Church hopes to avert crisis over missing bishop

By Shirley English

LEADERS of the Roman Catholic Church were expected to hold an emergency meeting with priests in Oban today as the disappearance of their bishop, the Rt Rev Roderick Wright, threatened to turn into a crisis.

Renewed appeals for Bishop Wright to make contact had failed last night. His close friend Kathleen MacPhee, 40, a nurse at Belford Hospital in Fort William, has also not been seen since last Monday. The Church refused to rule out speculation that the pair may be together.

Churches across the sprawling parish of Argyll and the Isles held special prayers for the bishop yesterday and the service at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban took the theme of forgiveness.

He had tried to contact Cardinal Thomas Winning, the head of the Catholic Church in Scotland, last Monday, but was unsuccessful. Since then he has failed to keep appointments. It is thought he may have gone to Ireland.

In Oban, a picturesque tourist resort on the west coast of Scotland, Bishop Wright's parishioners were anxiously awaiting news with many clinging to the hope he may have gone on retreat to mourn his sister who died of cancer earlier this year. Vicar General

Roddy Macdonald, the bishop's deputy, said: "We are extremely concerned. We are aware of certain rumours concerning his disappearance but feel unable to offer any comment in the absence of any real information. We ask all parishioners to keep the bishop in their prayers."

The bishop and Mrs MacPhee have met regularly since he counselled her after her divorce a number of years ago. Whispers about their increasingly intimate relationship were common currency in Fort William, where it was rumoured the pair had taken holidays together.

But Frances Shand Kydd, mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, a friend and parishioner of the bishop, brushed aside the rumours and spoke of a "huge tide of compassionate concern" for him. After mass yesterday, she said Bishop Wright had been very distressed recently by the death of his sister and that she was sure that if Mrs MacPhee was with him there would be an innocent explanation.

"I will not be surprised if this is nothing more than one close friend comforting another," she said.

Rev Roddy Johnston, deacon at the cathedral, said: "We have heard the rumours and don't know what foundation they have. We just want

him to get in touch. There is concern, not just because he is the bishop and leader of the Christian community here, but because he is a friend and brother priest and a lot of people care for him."

The emergency meeting was being held to discuss whether to put in a caretaker bishop until Bishop Wright turned up. Keith O'Brien, the Archbishop of Edinburgh and St Andrews, which takes in Argyll and the Isles was said to be attending.

Bishop Wright's close associates said his long silence was "unusual."

Mrs MacPhee, said to be a devout Catholic, disappeared after arranging for her ex-husband, William, to look after their youngest daughter Julie Anne, 15. She has two other children, Stephen, 24 and Donald, 18.

Yesterday Mr MacPhee, a building contractor in Fort William, was not available. Neighbours at her semi-detached home near Fort William said they had known of her friendship with the bishop for some time. It is thought they became friends when he was an assistant priest at the town church before becoming a bishop in December 1990.

Father Tom Connelly, a Church spokesman, said last night: "This situation cannot go on much longer."



Kathleen MacPhee was counselled after her divorce by Bishop Wright, seen below left at the Vatican with Cardinal Winning and other Scottish bishops



Women said, 'What a waste of dream man'

By Shirley English

IN HAPPIER times the Rt Rev Roderick Wright was affectionately nicknamed "Bishop Starsky" because of his resemblance to Paul Michael Glaser from the 1970s television series *Starsky and Hutch*.

Even in his late 40s and early 50s, his seemingly timeless good looks meant the 6 ft 11 in, silver-haired cleric managed to set pulses racing among women in his congregation at Corpach and Fort William where he was parish priest from 1987 until 1991. One woman parishioner admitted: "He was every woman's dream. We used to say, 'What a waste of a man'."

A keen sea fisherman, walker and unrepentant chain-smoker, Bishop Wright, 56, is widely considered an affable and honorable man, who found it easy to win loyal friends. He advised Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, when she converted to Catholicism in 1994. Yesterday she said: "I know him to be sensitive, compassionate and caring and a tremendously good pastor. He has been a kind and good friend."

Bishop Wright lived alone in a house beside St Columba's Cathedral in Oban. He is known to have liberal views on celibacy in the priesthood, being one of three Scottish bishops who in 1992 supported calls for a review in the Catholic Church which would allow priests to marry. Born in Glasgow and brought up in a three-room city flat in Kinning Park, Bishop Wright was the son of an Eriskey seaman and a South Uist woman. One sister died earlier this year and her loss, 18 months after his mother died, caused him a great deal of heartache.

His education took him from St Gerard's School in Glasgow, to St Mary's College at Blair in Aberdeen, and finally to St Peter's College, Cardross, Lanarkshire, where he studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained into the archdiocese of Glasgow the day after his 24th

birthday. His first post was as assistant priest to St Lawrence's Church in Drumchapel. He moved to an assistant's post at St Jude's in Barlanark where he served until 1969, before being appointed spiritual director and procurator at his old college until 1974.

His family had always spoken Gaelic at home and in 1974 he requested a transfer from the Glasgow diocese to Argyll and the Isles where his fluency in the language could be put to better use.

He was appointed assistant priest in Dunoon until 1976

Wright's call for married priests

In 1992 Bishop Wright joined two other Scottish Bishops in calling for a relaxation of the rules on compulsory celibacy for priests. In direct conflict with the Pope, who said the issue was not for discussion, Bishop Wright predicted that the rule would be relaxed as the church struggled to attract new priests. "It is something that is being questioned. But I don't see any conflict of faith if married men were ordained," he said.

followed by a similar post in Fort William until 1980. Father Wright then moved to the Western Isles where he was highly regarded as a charismatic preacher. He was parish priest at St Michael's, Ardkenneth, in his mother's former home island of South Uist, from 1980 to 1987.

In 1992 when the Catholic church was rocked by the scandal of Eamonn Casey, the Bishop of Galway, who fathered a child, Bishop Wright predicted there would be more flexibility on celibacy. "It is something that is being questioned. But I do not see any conflict in terms of faith if married men were ordained," he said.

Pressure grows on Pope to soften celibacy rule

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE disappearance of Bishop Wright and the speculation regarding his reasons will increase the pressure on the Vatican to soften the Roman Catholic Church's obdurate line on priestly celibacy.

There are an estimated 1,000 men in Britain who have left the Catholic priesthood to get married. In the time of Pope Paul VI, most went through the process of "laicisation", so they could officially leave the

active ministry with the agreement of the Church. These remain priests in law although they are not allowed to practise their ministry except under conditions of duress, such as to provide the last rites when none other is available.

However, under the present Pope, laicisation has become "extremely difficult", in the words of one former priest. A process that used to take a few months can now take six years or longer as the Church, unwilling to lose any more of its diminishing priesthood in the West, delays the

process in the hope that many might change their mind and return to the celibate ministry willingly.

Adding to the pressure has been the acceptance into the Catholic Church of dozens of former Anglican clergy, many of whom are married, but who have left the Church of England after the General Synod's decision to allow women to be ordained priests. In a few weeks, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, will ordain 11 married former Anglicans to the priesthood.

While officially the Anglicans have been welcomed into the Catholic Church and the Pope has provided special permission for their ordinations to take place, rumblings of discontent can be heard lower down the hierarchy.

At its recent meeting, the National Conference of Priests reaffirmed a statement welcoming the married Anglicans. But on an individual level, many Catholic priests are distressed that the path of marriage and family life is closed to them by virtue of their priestly vocation.

while married Anglicans with children are being admitted, many of them working in parishes.

Celibacy has been a requirement of the Latin church only since the 11th century, although it was a strong tradition from the days of the early church. Until the 11th century, there were many married priests and bishops. Celibacy was introduced as a requirement partly because of the New Testament principle that this was the best path to perfection and to prevent priests from passing church property to their families.

Hume deplores 'fantasies' created by society's obsession with sex

By Michael Horsnell

CARDINAL Hume yesterday attacked society's "endless obsession" with sex and called for a change in a culture which equates physical relations with love.

In a speech welcomed by other denominations, the Roman Catholic leader said sexual obsessions had led to "unreal fantasies" and false expectations of what was required for human happiness.

Addressing the Catholic Advisory Council, now known as Marriage Care, in Manchester on its fiftieth anniversary, the Archbishop of Westminster also called on the Government for more support for marriage and the family. While over £200 million was spent through the legal aid budget on family litigation, less than £4 million of taxpayers' money went on marriage support - a "ludicrous imbalance", he said. Children's

views of the world were formed early on and a good marriage would, fashion a child's own attitude to it, while a bad one could lead to disillusionment not just with marriage but the whole world.

"No society can afford to neglect the health of the family," he said. "The nurturing of children is the most primitive and profound human endeavour, and we are very far from giving due recognition and support to parents who stay at home to do this." Parents who wished to look after their children at home needed better help from employment, housing and the tax and benefit system, he added.

In his first major address on sex since the controversy over the Government's divorce law reforms, Cardinal Hume said that sexual freedom of choice had been idolised to the exclusion of all other values. This



Hume urged more support for families

had led to people regarding sexual relationships confined within marriage as an untenable commitment. Sex should be seen as a gift from God, fundamentally good yet open to abuse, and treated with "reverence and respect, protection and self-discipline". Cardinal Hume admitted his diffidence as a celibate to

speak about love and sex. However, he was still human and received the confidences of other people. "If, as seems prevalent today, it is taken for granted that there be no connection at all between the unitive and procreative, then the true significance of the full expression of human love is radically distorted," he said.

Cardinal Hume admitted Catholic teachings presented humanity with very high ideals, but said the Church was only pointing to what it was to be human, and what humans needed for fulfilment. The Archbishop's address was welcomed by the Church of England's Board for Social Responsibility, chaired by the Bishop of Oxford. The Rev Richard Thomas, the bishop's spokesman, said: "Society has taken the celebration of sex out of its context of the whole human person and turned sex into an object of its own right. That inevitably distorts it."

Hotels ban the riffraff who 'put diners off their food'

By Harvey Elliott
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BASIL FAWLEY would have been delighted. The man who launched gourmet evenings at Fawley Towers with an advert proclaiming "No riffraff" was ahead of his time.

A survey has revealed that hoteliers at middle-range establishments are reintroducing dress codes, following complaints from a growing number of guests that their enjoyment of meals was being spoiled by scruffy and unkempt fellow diners.

The swing back to a more conservative style is most marked among three-star hotels, according to the study by the British Hospitality Association and the magazine *Caterer and Hotelkeeper*. Tattoos and unconventional hairstyles are now banned from nearly half the three-star hotels questioned in the survey.

Jeremy Logie, chief executive of the BHA, said: "There is a reaction against sloppiness. No one is suggesting that



John Cleese as Fawley, trend-setter for hoteliers

everyone is forced to wear jacket and tie at all times, but people wearing football shirts or T-shirts does detract from the pleasure some may get from dining out."

Over one third of the 500 hotels which took part in the survey had a dress code. Holiday resort hotels in particular have acknowledged that many guests are keen to dress up for dinner. Joan Reen, proprietor of

Yrreshir Country House Hotel, Eglwysfach, Pwys, has refused guests who do not meet her standards of appearance. "We have turned people away because they look scruffy and they were extremely angry. But our other customers were supportive."

In general, five-star hotels were less concerned that the cheaper hotels about their guests wearing a jacket and tie for dinner. Only six per cent of five-star hotels questioned said they operated the policy, compared with 19 per cent of four stars, 44 per cent of three stars and 19 per cent of two star properties.

Some worried that they would lose free spending customers if they enforced a dress code. One hotelier asked: "Should I refuse Richard Branson?" one said.

Mr Branson himself said: "Two of my hotels are among the most exclusive in the world but there certainly is no dress code. People go there to relax. The most important thing is to be flexible."

Teenagers killed in car crash


By Joel Wolchover

FOUR teenagers died when their car went out of control in a Dorset village where building work is due to start soon on a bypass following a spate of similar accidents.


The youths aged between 17 and 19, were believed to have been passing through the village of Puddletown, near Dorchester, on their way home early yesterday morning when their car overshot a T-junction and crashed into a garden wall.

Firemen had to cut the bodies of the youths from the wreckage. Families of the dead, all from Dorset, have been informed. Police were last night waiting until the victims had been formally identified before releasing further details.


Funding has already been secured for a bypass to take traffic away from Puddletown, and signs have been erected saying roadworks are due to begin.



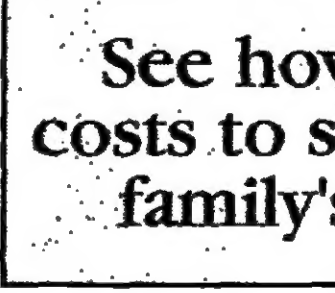
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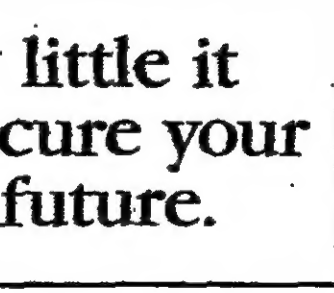
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evening in
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in London. A
man is sitting
on a bench, his
head bowed. He
is looking down
at his hands, which
are resting on his
knees. He is
wearing a dark
coat and a hat.
He is looking
down at his
hands, which
are resting on
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is wearing a
dark coat and
a hat. He is
looking down
at his hands,
which are resting
on his knees. He
is wearing a dark
coat and a hat.

'I was confused
and frightened'

By DOMINIC DUNN

WENDY LAW,
a 40-year-old
woman, is sitting
on a bench in
London. She is
looking down at
her hands, which
are resting on her
knees. She is
wearing a dark
coat and a hat.
She is looking
down at her
hands, which
are resting on
her knees. She
is wearing a dark
coat and a hat.

Conscription
faces £11,000 bill

THE Foreign Office
has confirmed that
a British scholar,
who was kidnapped
while on holiday
in Iran, was the
victim of a
ransom demand.
The family of
Reza Al-Harbi,
40, who was
kidnapped in
1990, has been
asked to pay
£11,000 for his
release. The
family has refused
to pay the ransom.
The Foreign Office
has confirmed that
a British scholar,
who was kidnapped
while on holiday
in Iran, was the
victim of a
ransom demand.

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Phone watchdogs plan punchline for cruel joke calls

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

IT IS the latest practical joke sweeping the workplace. Victims pick up their telephone extension to find themselves being insulted, ordered to support illegitimate children by the social services or called up to fight in Bosnia.

The voice turns out to be a recorded message from a premium-rate phone service. Now watchdogs say the joke has gone too far. They are targeting the joke lines after a huge number of complaints.

The prank works by leaving a message for the victim to call a number or by transferring a call to their extension. Voice-activated computers give the illusion that the caller is having a conversation with a real person.

Office workers use them to embarrass colleagues and employers. Many find the "humour" cruel and frightening. The calls can cost 49p a minute.

A fine of £3,402 — the highest against a joke line — has been imposed by the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Services, the watchdog for premium-rate services. It had received 25 complaints against Progressive Telelink of Bristol, including breaking rules on pricing, failing to state that the service was for entertainment only, and having unreasonable delays.

Among its jokes was a bogus call-up to fight in Bos-

nia the following week, with an order to be in Aldershot by the morning for bayonet practice. A woman who advises a menu of jokes on an information line says: "This joke is particularly good if your friend has any association with the military."

Another involved a bailiff claiming to be on the way to the victim's home to seize goods because of unpaid poll tax, but suggesting he will go away if bribed. There is a ratcatcher who says he has mistakenly smashed up the victim's home after getting the wrong address.

"Mr Insult" makes a series of increasingly insulting comments. "No — You Called Me" involved a madman who had escaped from an asylum. A "misdiagnosis" service lets the caller believe he is accidentally overhearing two Scotland Yard police officers planning to "fit up" a bishop.

There has also been a bogus pools win and a call from a solicitor in Australia keen to talk because a distant relative had left the victim £1,533,000.

The most hilarious, particularly for married men, is "You're a Father — Now Let's Talk About Maintenance," says the information line. The victim is told that a social services agency wanted him to pay for triplets he fathered two years earlier. "At the end, when your friend is completely freaked out, social services discloses the children are Chi-

nese. Unless the friend is Chinese he cannot be the father."

In another, a female voice is triggered by the victim saying hello. A woman then implies that her husband is jealous of their relationship and ends by saying that the photographs are in the post and asking when he will pay for the underwear. Then there is the sound of an ass braying and the message: "You have been set up."

Joke lines have to obey the laws which apply to all telephone calls. Trading standards officers can prosecute if they are fraudulent and the police can investigate if they are obscene. The supervisory body, which has had 143 complaints about the lines this year, provides a safety net by applying a code of practice which includes harm to children and racism. It has powers to confiscate the entire profits for any line.

Women tough it out for Pole trek

By JENNAI COX

AFTER a breathless week-end on Dartmoor the all-women team who will trek by relay to the North Pole next year were named yesterday.

A mother and daughter and a great niece of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother are among the 20 chosen from an original 60 hopefuls to make the 1,000-kilometre journey from north Canada in eight teams of two.

In the second of two route marches on the moors, the women had to show team spirit as well as individual enterprise and endurance to secure a place. Midnight abseiling, swimming with 30lb rucksacks across a freezing moorland lake and running a timed 1½ miles after a simulated search and rescue at 2am were a few of the tasks that they were expected to complete without a grumble.

Pen Hadow, of the Polar Travel Company, which is helping to organise the expedition, said the women who chose to put themselves



Victoria and Sue Riches, the daughter and mother chosen for the all-women relay trek to the North Pole

through the course were "among the strongest, most courageous I have ever met".

Sue and Victoria Riches are hoping to be paired for one of the polar relay legs. Mrs Riches said: "I was 50 this year and decided I wanted to do something. My

daughter said she was going to have a go and asked why didn't I try as well." Victoria, who led a singing chorus to maintain morale through the weekend, added: "It is brilliant to be going with my mother. We will make a great team." Rosie Clayton, 34, a

London PR executive, the Queen Mother's great niece, said the Pole was "just the best challenge". The chosen women will now begin training. Each will be asked to maintain their own fitness programmes and to attend training weekends

before the expedition, led by Caroline Hamilton, 32, a London-based film financier, starts next March. Only two women, one American and one Japanese, have reached the Pole, but they were part of larger men's expeditions.

'I was confused and frightened'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

WENDY LAW, 60, picked up a note put through her door asking her to telephone a number urgently.

"I didn't recognise the number. The call was full of abuse. He said, 'It's about time you so-and-so phoned'. The frightening bit was he said, 'Where's that cheque?' I was confused. I thought I didn't owe any money. I couldn't understand what this cheque was," the retired telephone switchboard operator from Penze said.

"It's supposed to be a computer-operated voice, so the more you talk the more it goes on. I kept saying, 'Who are you?' He said, 'Don't interrupt me. Don't you talk to me when I am talking to you.' I was getting a bit unnerved about it so I put the phone down. I called the police and said I had been frightened by an offensive call. They didn't want to know. They said it was one of these wind-up things."

Another woman was so upset when she dialled a Mr Angry-type service that she called police and told them to arrest the man for being rude on the telephone. The officers explained that they were powerless to intervene because the culprit was a voice-activated



Law: abusive "caller" demanded a cheque

computer using a tape recording of an actor.

A third woman collapsed when she dialled a "car crash" line, where a driver speaking on his mobile phone begins screaming that he is about to collide, followed by a loud bang. One caller telephoned 999 to report an accident after falling for the same trick.

The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Services is considering introducing a new rule into its code of practice next year to insist the practical joke services contain a message at the beginning stating they are for entertainment only.

Conscription boy faces £11,000 bill

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Foreign Office is seeking to confirm Iranian claims that a British schoolboy conscripted while on holiday in Tehran was the victim of a misunderstanding. But the family of Reza Afshar, 17, fear they might have to pay £11,000 to buy him out of two years' national service.

Reza, from Marlow, Buckinghamshire, who was born in Britain and has dual nationality, was stopped as he was about to board a plane home last month while travelling on an Iranian passport. They claimed new regulations qualified him for army service. His mother and sister had to fly home while he stayed with relatives in Tehran.

Mohammad Safaei, deputy head of mission at the Iranian Embassy in London, said

there might have been confusion over documents. Nobody under 18 had to do military service, he said. "Even someone over 18 does not have to do the service if they are studying and anyone can pay money to get out of doing it."

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night: "We are aware of what the Iranian Embassy has said and we are seeking to confirm that with the authorities in Tehran."

Reza is taking 4 A levels and is seeking a place at the London School of Economics. His sister said Mrs Afshar would find it hard to raise the money. "We are not upset with the Iranian Government. We understand the situation when we travel on our Iranian passports and we will pay the money and obey the law."

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Prospect of gold rush divides a cream-tea Devon town

By Bill Frost

A TRANQUIL Devon town sitting on gold deposits is divided over the possibility that the price of seeking the mother lode might be serious environmental damage. Geologists are confident that Crediton could be a West Country Klondike, but some local people fear that their quality of life might be blighted by mining operations.

Preliminary tests have shown traces of gold in streams and a Dublin-based company is ready to spend at least £1 million on more

detailed surveys. A spokesman for Minmet said: "The case for looking down here in Devon is pretty overwhelming."

The gold is thought to lie in the so-called Crediton Trough, an area with geological similarities to gold-rich parts of Australia and South Africa. The Devon seam, if work goes ahead, might yield big profits and create up to 300 jobs in an area of high unemployment.

There is concern in Crediton. "Our local industry is cream teas, not prospecting for gold," one trader said yesterday. Gillian Ponsford,

the Mayor, said: "We are cautious at the moment and concerned about damage to the environment. We live in such a beautiful area that we would not want to do anything to ruin it."

Paul Edwards, the Green Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Exeter, said: "The problem with any mining operation is that it can be devastating to the environment. I would like to know how they plan to contain that damage. Personally, I do not think that is possible."

Richard Scrivener, of the British

Geographical Society, which carried out the original survey, said that bedrock sampling at the Crediton Trough revealed substantial traces of arsenic and antimony — "pathfinder elements" normally found where gold was present too.

"As yet we have no idea how rich the seam may be but samples so far have yielded reasonably high-grade deposits. Much more work will have to be done before we know if this is an enormous mother lode or just enough to make half a dozen wedding rings," he added.

"Gold has been found in Devon

and Cornwall before by tin miners. We have no real idea about its quality though, because in those days they used to take it themselves as a perk in a low-paid job."

Jeremy Metcalfe, chairman of the newly established Crediton Minerals, a Minmet subsidiary, said that any mine shaft sunk in the future would be barely noticeable. He added: "As a Devon man myself, I am very sensitive about the environment. I fully understand why people are concerned but I want to assure them that there is no need to worry should the county council grant

permission for us to go ahead.

"We will undertake an environmental impact study, which covers everything from sound and dust to noise, water and transport."

Mr Metcalfe is not without allies in Crediton. Jeremy Lee, chairman of the chamber of commerce, said: "This is very welcome because small towns like Crediton are having a very hard time at the moment. The benefits would be in employment and in spin-offs with such a large project near by. A vast amount of businesses would gain from any gold rush."

Moors body is to be reburied

The body of the Moors murder victim Lesley Ann Downey is to be exhumed and reburied after attacks on her grave. The family of the girl, killed by Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, have begun proceedings to have the body moved to a secret place.

They are writing to the Bishop of Manchester seeking his permission. The Church said it would not stand in the way of the request from Ann, 67, Miss West's mother. Mrs West, who suffered a breakdown after the attack on the grave in Manchester, said the only way to avoid further vandalism was to move the body.

Railway deal

Workers with North West Regional Railways and Regional Railways North East have called off a planned strike after reaching agreement on working hours. The union RMT is still in dispute with 13 other regional railway companies.

War hero dies

Wing Commander Clive Beadon, whose valour as a bomber pilot during the Burma Campaign against Japan won him the DFC, died on Saturday at the age of 77. After leaving the RAF in 1966 he became an authority on dowsing. *Obituary, page 23*

Patient found

A dangerous patient who absconded from a secure unit at a psychiatric hospital near Royston, Hertfordshire, was found nearly 400 miles away in the Strathclyde area. Daniel Reynolds, 29, absconded on Thursday from Kneesworth House.

Big picture show

Wider choice offered by giant multiplex cinemas has meant that 12 per cent of adults go to see a film each month, said the market analysts Mintel. Total spending this year is likely to be £612 million, a quarter going on merchandise such as popcorn.

Road arrests

Police made 36 arrests after a street "protest party" on a main road into Cambridge turned violent. About 400 anti-road protesters had earlier blocked the street but as night fell police came under attack from people throwing missiles.

Wind of change

Bridlington is planning to build seven wind turbines on the edge of the east Yorkshire resort to produce power to run lighting along the promenade. East Riding Council is to erect one turbine for a three-day demonstration to test local opinion.

Cows shot on Al

Police marksmen shot three cows after they repeatedly wandered on to the A1 at Balderton, Nottinghamshire, early yesterday, causing at least two minor accidents. No one was hurt. Police said the shootings had been requested by a farmer and a vet.

Computer hitch halts profiles of criminals

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A £30 million Home Office project to create a detailed database of convictions and intelligence every criminal in Britain has been crippled because millions of records cannot be put on to the computer. The system, named Phoenix, went live last year but only a tenth of the records is in the database. Police are still sending away by post for copies of another three million records.

Phoenix has been hailed as a breakthrough in reducing bureaucracy and speeding investigations but its difficulties are the latest in a series of disasters which have overtaken attempts to hitch policing to high technology. Last week *The Times* reported that the Home Office had admitted that the national DNA database had a huge backlog of samples waiting to be processed.

The heart of the Phoenix problem is the "back record conversion" of material on paper and microfiche into computer data. A senior police source said that some records came out as "gobbledygook" and others needed to be adjusted before they could be read. Another 300,000 records have been successfully processed into the computer but a police source said that they may not be sufficiently comprehensive.

An £8.6 million contract with the PCL computing company to prepare the three million records for loading on the computer was terminated last month by mutual agreement. Many of the records have been converted and most of the cost had been met. The company is still working on a section of the Phoenix project.

Home Office officials are blaming the disaster on technical difficulties, complex equipment and the nature of the records, but there has already been dispute over the project. Last year there were questions in the Commons about the progress being made by PCL and criticisms of the amount of training police would get to use the system.

Phoenix was designed to give police officers a full record of convictions and de-

tails such as modus operandi, associates and distinguishing marks. It combined the national criminal records collection and data on a special form used by individual forces when a suspect was charged.

At the touch of a button officers sitting in a station or squad office could call up a list of suspects, analyse a crime against the records or look at geographic patterns. Police could also enter records into the system themselves. When Phoenix was launched in May last year Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, told the police that Phoenix was "perhaps the most significant service introduced during the past 20 years".

Eventually Phoenix will become part of a single national criminal justice computer network serving not only the police but the courts, the Prison Service and the Probation Service. It is also intended to provide the basis of the criminal records agency announced this summer which will vet prospective employees on behalf of employers.

A senior detective said: "It's not the all-singing, all-dancing system we would have hoped for. I think it is retrievable but it is disappointing." A chief constable said that there was too much pressure by police and officials to start using the systems before making sure that everything was working properly.

Maria Wallis, Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex and one of the officers overseeing the project, confirmed that there were problems and that Phoenix would not be able to give the range of analysis and records police had hoped to get. She said: "It is an analytical tool but it does not provide me with the mechanics to search for methods or a geographical area."

The Home Office blamed "the complex technology" for the problems with Phoenix and said that the records successfully placed on the computer covered offenders who had been convicted since 1981, and were full records. Only those convicted before 1981 would remain outside the system.



Stephen Fry in tail coat and wig for the new film: "I've been researching Wilde all my life. I've been passionate about him since I was 11"

Secret life of Wilde as ideal husband

By Dalva Alberge, Arts Correspondent

ALMOST a century after his death, a new film is remembering Oscar Wilde in the way he wanted: "Something more than a man with a tragic vice in his life. There is so much more in me, and I always was a good father to both my children."

The makers of *Wilde* intend to balance his homosexuality, for which he was imprisoned, with his tender love for his wife, Constance, and two sons. Filming took place last week in east London of the soirée at which he met his bride, played by Jennifer Ehle, best known as Lizzy Bennett in television's *Pride and Prejudice*.

The producers, brothers Marc and Peter Samuelson, said they felt that the Victorian writer's scandalous affair with Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas, which led to his downfall and exile, painted an incomplete picture of the man. Peter said: "Oscar also loved his wife and two sons very deeply. At the end of his life, the fact that he was separated from them was perhaps what ultimately destroyed him. In the past, Constance has been a little bit forgotten."

On location at an 1840s house in Mile End, the actor and writer Stephen Fry emerged in a cream tail coat

and long wig to play the man who is one of his heroes. He believes that Wilde has been misunderstood as brittle and superficial: "He wasn't. I've been researching Wilde all my life. I've been passionate about him since I was 11."

Asked what Wilde might have made of his portrayal, Fry drew an analogy with Daniel Massey asking his godfather, Noel Coward, how he had fared in his depiction of him. "Too many 'dear boys', dear boy," came the reply. Mr Fry added: "I only hope Oscar would be gracious." Asked

whether they had considered anyone else for the role, Marc Samuelson said: "Can you think of anyone else who'd be right for it?"

Directed by Brian Gilbert, the film focuses on 13 years of Wilde's life, when most of his great works — including *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *An Ideal Husband* — were written. Vanessa Redgrave plays Wilde's mother, and Jude Law plays Douglas, the Oxford undergraduate whom he met on the first night of his play *Lady Windermere's Fan*. The script, based on

Richard Ellmann's definitive biography, is by Julian Mitchell, whose previous work includes *Another Country*.

Constance Wilde ultimately fled the country with their children and changed the family name to Holland, always hoping that Wilde would return. Wilde's grandson, Merlin Holland, said: "I am pleased to see they have brought Constance and the family in because they were an important part of his life. You only have to read his letters to see that. From prison, he wrote that it broke his heart to

realise what he had done to them."

Mr Holland singled out the letter written to a friend in March 1897, when the court had made his wife guardian of the children: "I do hope the court will see in me something more than a man with a tragic vice in his life. There is so much more in me, and I always was a good father to both my children. I love them dearly and was deeply loved by them. It would be better for them not to be forced to think of me as an outcast, but to know me as a man who has suffered."

The producers noted how the two films made in the Sixties — Peter Finch in *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* and Robert Morley in *Oscar Wilde* — could not focus enough on the homosexuality "to say what it was that was making everyone upset".

Although social and academic attitudes have changed, the producers who made *Tom and Viv* struggled for four years to get Wilde under way. Without £1.4 million from the Arts Council's Greenlight lottery fund, the £6.4 million film would not have been possible.

Everyone is aware of the challenge in the two months of filming. As Wilde said: "In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it."

Importance of praising Oscar



Wilde: many events planned for centenary

THE centenary of Oscar Wilde's release from Reading Gaol in May 1887, where he was imprisoned for his homosexuality, will be marked by numerous events.

Apart from *Wilde* the film, there are plans for several memorials, including two statues, and a competition for creative writing by prisoners in Reading prison, today a young offenders' institution and remand centre. The small cell in which Wilde was kept has survived.

The British Library is discussing a major Wilde exhibition for 2000, the centenary of his death. Among celebratory events planned for 1997, Dub-

lin, Wilde's birthplace, is hoping to erect a multi-coloured statue while London intends to erect a statue in the heart of the theatreland.

Reading council may place a memorial outside the prison. Wilde would be flattered. As he once said: "There is only one thing worse than being talked about. That is not being talked about."

Before he was given a place in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey a few years ago, there were fears that his homosexuality would bar him from that honour but his following today is stronger than ever. His grave in Paris has become a place of pilgrimage.

Barnstaple blossoms as a top European beauty

By Harvey Elliott, Travel Correspondent

THE Devon town of Barnstaple has walked off with a top European environmental "beauty" prize, much to the surprise of many who know the town well. But despite being one of the lesser known tourist attractions in the West Country, the town's floral displays were judged the best in Europe, perhaps because the local councilors cannily replaced a flower-decked model Spitfire with Concorde.

The model of the Anglo-French supersonic jet which dominates the town's square so impressed judges in the pan-European *Entente Florale* competition that they had little hesitation in granting Barnstaple a gold award and

naming it as one of Europe's three most beautiful towns, at least as far as flowers were concerned.

They also gave a top award to the Belgian town of Malmedy, which can hardly be described as one of the prettiest in Belgium let alone in Europe. The third winner, Skerries in Ireland, often does well in Ireland's tidy towns contest, but it is known more for its dry, bracing climate than for its scenic charm.

Barnstaple was allowed to join the nine finalists in the European competition after winning the Britain in Bloom competition last year with hundreds of hanging baskets of flowers and a Spitfire as the main attraction. "The organi-

sers decided that to ensure none of the European judges took offence, it would be better to have a Concorde in flowers than a Spitfire, and it obviously worked," Alan Clark, of North Devon District Council, said. "We are all thrilled by the victory and the town is a blaze of colour and really looks wonderful now."

Already the town has benefited from its victory in the national competition with an influx of coach tours from around the country. Now Europeans are also expected to flock in to see the flowers, planted after Faye Webber, vice-chairman of the council, raised £50,000 from local businesses.

Mrs Webber said in Eger, Hungary — itself a former victor in the competition — where the prize-winners were announced: "I am absolutely thrilled. We are particularly well known for our busy lizzie balls."

Now Barnstaple, which is at the head of the Taw estuary and was one of the four original boroughs of Devon, will be able to take part in the worldwide competition and is open to suggestions to what it should create as the centrepiece when the blooms on Concorde have faded after the Barnstaple fair this week.

£3,000 awarded for holiday upset

By A Staff Reporter

WHEN Grant and Yvonne Moss arrived on the holiday desert island of their dreams they expected to walk hand in hand on a palm-fringed Indian Ocean beach.

Instead, they watched as excavators and dumper trucks roared up and down the tiny Maldivian island of Lankanfihlu. Work started at 6.30am each day.

After the 19-night stay, the couple were offered £500 compensation from Trade Winds holidays. They asked for £1,000, but were refused. Now a judge has awarded them a full refund of £3,000.

Mr Moss, 35, of Studley, Hereford and Worcester, said: "Our holiday was totally ruined. We were very stressed than before we got there. We are very happy with the outcome."

"It was advertised as a four-star holiday haven which combined modern comforts with unspoilt natural beauty. Yvonne was recovering from major surgery and it looked an ideal place for her to recuperate. I paid extra for us to stay in a water bungalow."

The couple were told that there was building work on the island. "They said it was just a small extension to the main hotel and that it wouldn't affect us. We had a

near 20-hour trip to be greeted by a half-built island. It was just like one big building site. The workmen were still erecting some water bungalows. The worst thing was the noise."

Two days later, a travel representative arrived to apologise but said there was nothing that could be done.

On the couple's return they lodged a formal complaint and were told that they would receive only £500 compensation. "I asked for £1,000. Trade Winds offered half, saying we had been warned." Eventually they decided to take Trade Winds to Redditch County Court, where the company admitted liability.



Yvonne Moss on the Maldivian island trip

Paraglider crashes on to house

By Joel Wolchover

A PARAGLIDER who crashed through the roof of a house in the Peak District was critically ill last night.

Ian Rodger, 32, a solicitor from Sheffield, fell head first and had to be freed by firefighters after becoming trapped in the attic. He was taken to Sheffield's Hallamshire Hospital, where his condition was described as serious but stable.

Dozens of onlookers had watched Mr Rodger circling low over the village of Hathersage, Derbyshire, not realising he was struggling to open his reserve parachute. Liz Wain, 41, who lives opposite the scene of the accident, said: "He seemed to be tangled up in his parachute strings. He was struggling to untangle himself. The next thing, he went straight into the roof of the house opposite."

"The noise was terrible. I don't know how to describe it. You would have thought a plane had hit the house, not just a person." Mrs Wain said that two local doctors were on the scene within minutes of the accident on Saturday.

The British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association said that their members undertook 500,000 flights a year and about 150 accidents were reported.

Father drowns in dinghy accident

By Joel Wolchover

A MAN died when a small wooden dinghy carrying two adults and four children capsized in darkness off Salcombe estuary, Devon.

Stuart Wheyman, 52, drowned after being thrown into the sea on Saturday night. His wife, Rowena, their daughter Tyrina, 12, and nine-year-old son Nicholas were also tipped into the water, along with the son and daughter of a neighbouring family who had been allowed to join the boating trip.

When the dinghy capsized the party, none of whom was wearing life jackets, had been returning after a night out ashore to a larger yacht moored in the estuary. The accident started a frantic rescue effort involving residents and the emergency services.

The four youngsters were rescued from the water by instructors from a local sailing club, while the adults were taken ashore by yachtsmen from boats moored in the estuary near by. One of the rescuers, a nurse, tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate Mr Wheyman and gave first aid to Mrs Wheyman, who was later flown by RAF Sea King helicopter to a hospital in Plymouth.

A spokesman for Devon police said: "The occupants of

a houseboat heard screaming coming from the darkness and made their way towards the commotion. Everyone in the capsized dinghy was helped from the water and brought ashore."

Mr Wheyman was pronounced dead at the scene by a doctor from Salcombe, who had been called out to assist the rescuers. Both families involved in the tragedy live in villages near the coast.

Kurt Mockridge, of the Island Cruising Club, praised the club's instructors who helped to co-ordinate rescue efforts from their converted Mersey ferry, *Egremont*. "The dinghy capsized near *Egremont*", he said. "The staff on duty overheard shouts and went out in a rigid inflatable rescue boat. We got the children warm and dry and the parents of the other two children, who had been at a party in Tones, came over to pick up all four of them."

Members of the club found the dinghy snared on the mooring of *Egremont* yesterday morning. "It was 8 ft long with an outboard on the back," Mr Mockridge said. "We would certainly not put that many people in a boat that size and we would also make sure everyone was wearing buoyancy aids."

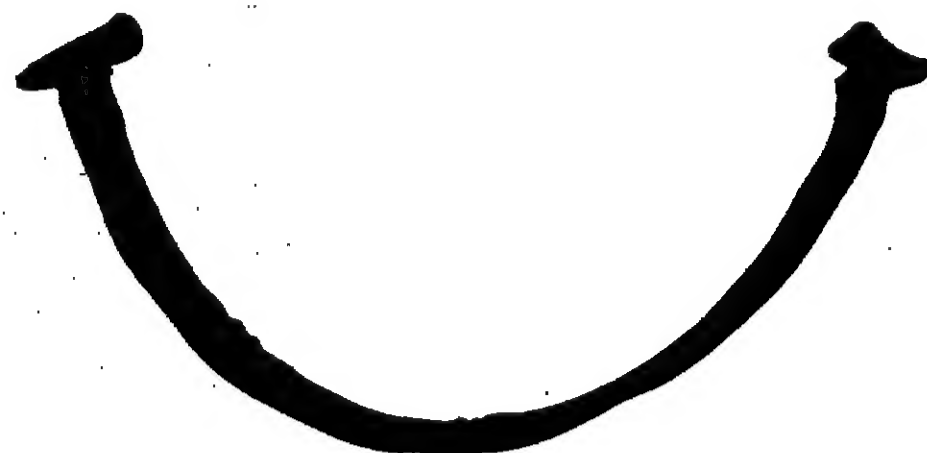
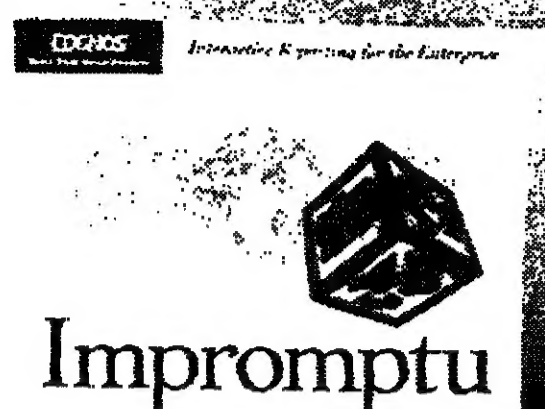
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China starts purge of Dalai Lama's Tibet strongholds

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A SWEEPING purge of Tibet's anti-Chinese Buddhist temples has begun as Peking intensifies its "strike hard" drive to compel loyalty among the turbulent clergy and to curb their devotion to the Dalai Lama.

The drive—aimed at "bases of splittist activities" and monks and nuns who have become the backbone of the splittists, according to the official newspaper *Tibet Daily*—will focus on the Sera, Drepung, and Ganden monasteries near the capital, Lhasa. Vast complexes of temples and domestic buildings, the three have been the focus of repeated crackdowns by the Chinese since the 1950s; Ganden, which is perched on a mountain, was nearly obliterated by dynamiting during the Cultural Revolution.

Raided, a leading pro-Peking Tibetan official told the paper: "Some temples are strongholds of Dalai Lama splittist thinking." He said Sera,

Drepung and Ganden had been chosen "to gain experience" for a wider crackdown.

The nationwide "strike hard" campaign against criminals began in April. By June, according to the authorities, it had resulted in the arrests in Tibet of 187 people, the smashing of 287 criminal cases and the seizure of 34 guns and quantities of ammunition and explosives.

Earlier this month, details of the crackdown were leaked to the London-based Tibet Information Network which quoted Chinese documents demanding that monks exhibit patriotism, opposition to the Dalai Lama, and co-operation in fostering the "harmony of religion and socialism". Monks who displayed a "bad attitude" would be expelled from monasteries, according to the documents.

The effort to compel Tibet's clergy to abandon the Dalai Lama has been continuous and is unlikely to succeed any

better this time than it has in the past.

The Dalai Lama, regarded by most Tibetans as their spiritual and civil leader, escaped from Tibet in 1959 to exile in India, but visitors to monasteries are still approached by monks of all ages who display illegal pictures of the Dalai Lama and slips of paper condemning China.

□ Sydney: Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister, left for his first official visit to Europe at the weekend after defying Chinese warnings and welcoming the Dalai Lama to Australia.

The half-hour meeting, which Mr Downer described as "private", took place shortly after the Dalai Lama arrived on Saturday for a 15-day visit to Australia. John Howard, the Prime Minister, who leaves on a six-day trip to Indonesia and Japan today, is also expected to have a private meeting with the Dalai Lama on his return. (AFP)



The Dalai Lama greets supporters in Melbourne yesterday on a visit to Australia

Split at Vatican as Pope faces sixth operation

By RICHARD OWEN

THE Vatican has admitted that the Pope's mysterious recurrent illnesses are due to inflammation of the appendix, and says he will have an operation by the end of the year.

The announcement reportedly followed a row within the Vatican over how much to divulge about the Pope's health, and failed to halt talk of a vacuum at the top.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, said the pontiff, 76, would go ahead with his controversial trip to France on Thursday and a beatification ceremony early next month. He will then undergo surgery. "There is no special concern," Dr Navarro-Valls said. "But it is better to intervene from the surgical point of view to solve this recurring problem." He emphasised that there was no sign of a tumour of the kind removed from the Pope's colon in 1992.

According to well-placed sources, however, the decision to "come clean" over the Pope's illness follows a row between Dr Navarro-Valls and senior Vatican figures, including Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Pope's Polish private secretary, and Renato Buzzonetti, the papal doctor. They were said to have conveyed the Pope's "displeasure" over the

chief spokesman's unusually frank remarks to reporters during the pontiff's trip to Hungary a week ago, during which he moved slowly and often appeared tired and in pain after enduring cold winds and driving rain.

Dr Navarro-Valls has referred frequently in the past six months to "intestinal infections" and "fevers" to explain the Pope's repeated setbacks, including his cancellation of Christmas Mass and medical tests for "abdominal pains" during his summer break at Castelgandolfo.

During the Hungarian trip, Dr Navarro-Valls, a former doctor, said the repeated abdominal infections were due to "mysterious bacteria" which had the Vatican baffled. He appeared to hint that reports that the constant trembling in the Pope's left hand was due to Parkinson's disease were true, and said his "personal view" was that the Pope's stomach problems stemmed from the attempt on his life in May 1981, when he was shot in the abdomen.

It was reported at the weekend that Dr Navarro-Valls had offered to resign after criticism from the Pope's immediate entourage over this attempt at Vatican glasnost, but the pontiff had asked him to stay. Dr Buzzonetti yesterday confined himself to the terse declaration that, after consulting four other Vatican doctors, he had concluded that surgery for "recurring inflammation of the appendix" was the best course.

The admission that the Pope is to have his sixth operation since coming to the Holy See in 1978 has not halted reports that the continuing uncertainty is paralysing decision-making in the Vatican. Last week *La Repubblica* published what it said was an interview with an anonymous Vatican "monsignor", who expressed concern over the vacuum at the top. *L'Avvenire*, the Catholic daily, which voices the view of the Italian church hierarchy, accused *La Repubblica* of playing "macabre games", and suggested the "monsignor" did not exist.

But the article accurately reflected what is being said in the Vatican corridors of power. "John Paul II is a one-man band, and the band is not playing," one insider said. Suggestions of a rift have led to reports in the French media before the papal visit that he might become the first Pope since the 13th century to step down voluntarily.



Pope feeling the strain of recurrent illness

Papal spokesman unlikely to win prizes for surgery



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A DIAGNOSIS of chronic appendicitis, the "grumbling appendix" so beloved of my Edwardian forbears, would be unlikely to win high marks for Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman and former doctor, if ever he had to resit the finals of his surgery exams.

The concept that recurrent inflammation of the appendix can be a cause of intermittent lower right-sided abdominal pain and a temperature is now rejected. But experienced doctors know that some patients with these symptoms do get better after their appendix has been removed.

It is to be hoped that the Pope, who has suffered from these troubles for some months, and whose symptoms, it is admitted, have mystified his doctors, will be one of those who recover after an appendectomy.

One possible cause for the Pope's pain and intermittent infection is partial obstruction of the gut after the development of adhesions perhaps caused by internal scarring when he was shot in the abdomen. That the troubles could be caused by old adhesions—this, incidentally, is also not a popular diagnosis with medical examiners—is a distinct possibility.

Although various research projects have shown that adhesions are only rarely the cause of serious trouble, there is no doctor who has not seen instances where they have given rise to symptoms similar to the Pope's that have disappeared after their division.

The appendix is not always obstructed from within—the usual trigger which induces

an attack of acute appendicitis. If the mesenteric glands around the appendix become swollen, the classic symptoms of appendicitis will follow. Now that milk is pasteurised and abdominal TB is uncommon, mesenteric adenitis is usually seen as a reaction to a viral or bacterial infection. Although frequently a childhood problem, it can occur in any age group.

Doctors will always be anxious and suspicious in the case of anyone who, like the Pope, has suffered from cancer of the bowel, and will worry lest any later abdominal symptoms are a consequence of a recurrence of the tumours. The Vatican authorities have given an assurance that there is no evidence of any cancer in the Pope, and that this possibility has been considered and excluded.

When the Pope has his appendix removed, it will give the surgeons the opportunity to carry out a thorough search of his abdomen as well as enabling them to remove his appendix and divide any adhesions causing trouble.

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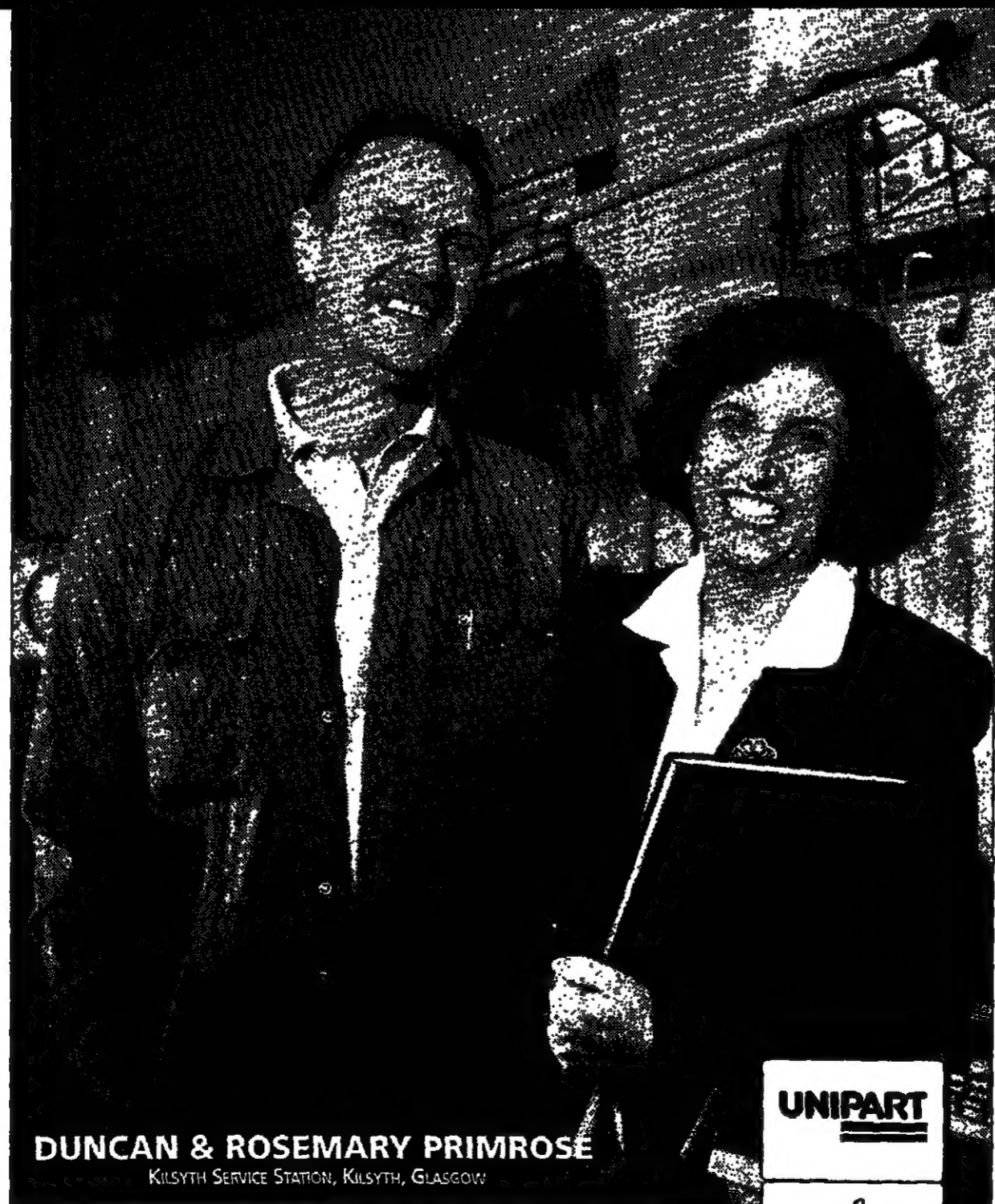
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Baghdad hurls torrent of abuse at Clinton amid continuing US build-up of military force

55

Iraq tension eases as Perry bolsters allies in the Gulf

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

AMERICA and Iraq pulled back from the brink of renewed conflict yesterday, but William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, refused to rule out further airstrikes against Iraqi targets.

Mr Perry was on a whistle-stop tour of the Gulf, where America's military buildup continued. The reduction in tension followed a pledge by President Saddam Hussein to halt further attacks on allied warplanes enforcing the no-fly zones imposed over the north and south of his country. An official Baghdad newspaper emphasised that this move, brokered by Russian diplomats in the Iraqi capital, was only "temporary". In some of the strongest insults ever addressed to President Clinton, Saddam's mouthpiece *al-Jumhuriya* dismissed the American leader as "mentally retarded, immersed in vice and without conscience".

American diplomatic sources said that instructions had been given by the White House for a cooling-off in the rhetoric being used against the Iraqi dictator while Mr Perry continued a delicate diplomatic mission to bolster

what is left of the 1991 US-led coalition that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The tone was set by Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, who was crudely ridiculed in a poem published by one Iraqi paper at the weekend. She said that Saddam seemed unlikely now to take actions that might provoke a renewed attack on Iraq and added that the US would not be provoked into "overreacting". Speaking on the NBC programme *Meet the Press*, Ms Albright hinted strongly that the huge US force now gathering in the Gulf, including eight Stealth fighters in Kuwait, would not be ordered into immediate action unless fresh provocations came from the Iraqis.

Mr Perry gave an evasive answer when questioned on the same subject during a day which involved talks in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. He is due today for meetings in Turkey, which, like Saudi Arabia, has refused to allow US planes being held in readiness for airstrikes to be based on its territory. During his tour, the Emir of Bahrain announced that it would

sanction the basing of 23 American F-16 fighters on its soil. Mr Perry said the planes would enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

"It looks as though Saddam Hussein is not going to do anything else," Ms Albright said. She added that the US would remain "resolute" in its effort to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbours again. "Basically we have built our forces there. They have acted as a very strong deterrent. We will be resolute," she said.

Pressed on whether it would take another provocation for the US to renew attacks, Ms Albright said: "I think we are going to keep watching the whole issue very, very carefully."

Diplomatic reports in the Gulf, unconfirmed by US officials, said that America was now pressing for Iraq to withdraw all its anti-aircraft systems from the no-fly zones, including the recently extended sector in the south. The US stand on the issue was complicated when a senior Russian diplomat in Baghdad claimed that Iraq still had the right to fire on foreign warplanes entering its airspace.

Mr Perry was asked in Kuwait whether further airstrikes against Iraq were still possible. He replied: "Yes, it is a possibility," without giving more details.

Mr Perry failed in Kuwait to secure immediate approval for a previously-announced plan to deploy 5,000 extra US troops in the emirate to join the 1,200 already based there. Yesterday they conducted live-fire exercises south of the border over which Iraqi troops stormed in August 1990, igniting the crisis that led to the Gulf War.



An F18 Hornet warplane takes off from the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier to patrol the extended southern no-fly zone over Iraq

Big guns wheeled out in Kuwaiti desert

AMERICAN heavy artillery bombarded invisible targets at the Udairi firing range in the Kuwaiti desert yesterday, 25 miles south of the Iraqi border, in the latest demonstration of Washington's determination to defend the oil-rich emirate.

The air shook repeatedly with the explosions of 155mm shells as gunners from the US First Cavalry Division's Alpha Battery practised with their new track-propelled Paladin howitzers, each capable of hitting targets 18 miles away.

During the two-and-a-half-hour journey to Udairi, all we could see for miles after endless miles was glistening white sand, a few sheep munching bushes, burnt-out metal hulks, and the odd Bedu holding the steering wheel of his Toyota pick-up truck in one hand and a mobile phone in the other, while rounding up his camels.

The live-fire exercise, the latest in a



America is showing its determination to protect Kuwait with a display of firepower on the Iraqi border, Michael Dynes reports from the Ali al-Salem air base

five-year series codenamed Intrinsic Action, is aimed at boosting the battle readiness of US and Kuwaiti troops, enabling them to deploy rapidly anywhere in the region in the event of an armed conflict with Iraq.

In the blast-furnace heat of the desert, and amid clouds of blinding white sand, the men of Alpha Battery shredded targets over the horizon, including the rusty remnants of Iraqi tanks, artillery pieces and troop carriers, abandoned here in huge numbers after the Allies expelled President Saddam Hussein's forces from Ku-

wait in February 1991. "Everyone here understands what the mission is," said Corporal Matthew Barr, the personal bodyguard of Captain James Barron, the commander of Alpha Battery.

"We've got scorpions in our boots, snakes in our beds, and another three months to go in this goddamn heat," he added. "There's no beer and no women. None of us has had a drink in six weeks. It's pretty grim. But we're here to prepare for military action. None of us wants it, but we're ready if it comes."

As the six howitzers were put

through their paces for the media, we were told that the First Cavalry Division's new computer-assisted big guns had succeeded in "delivering a copperhead missile into the open hatch of a moving tank" from a distance of 16 miles.

"It's quicker, it rolls faster, shoots further — it's just an awesome machine," one gunner said.

The gunners from Alpha Battery were deployed to Kuwait from Fort Hood, Texas, on August 10, for 120 days of exercises under the defence pact agreed between the US and Kuwait after the Gulf War.

In addition to the 1,200 strong rotating battalion, there are also several hundred non-combat American military personnel who are stationed at Camp Doha, west of Kuwait City, along with the eight Stealth F117s which arrived at al-Jabar air base, southwest of the capital, last Friday.



William Perry, US Defence Secretary, with Sheikh Hamoud al-Sabah, his Kuwaiti counterpart yesterday

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THE TIMES
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1996

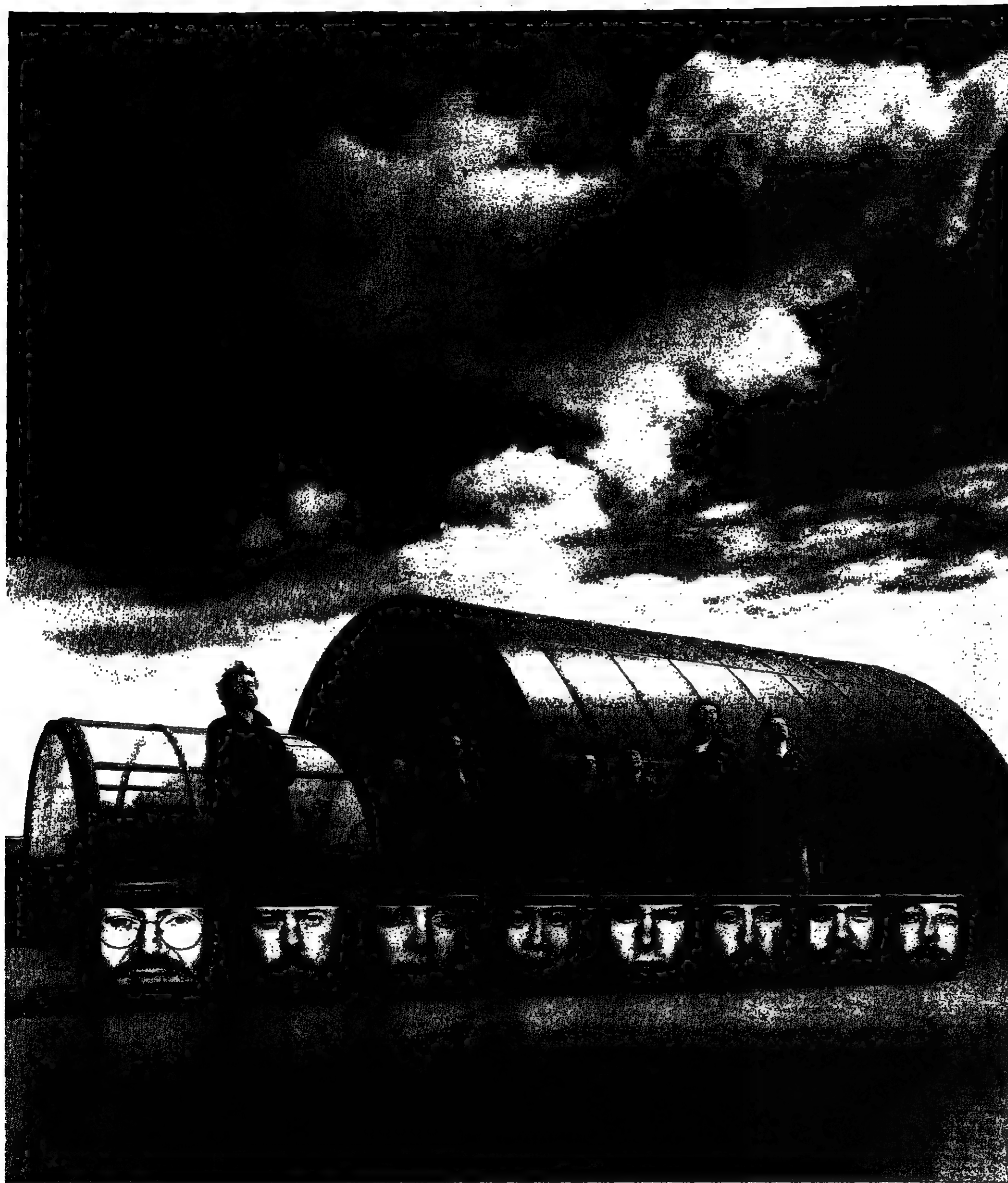
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CHANGING TIMES

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Why some states are more equal than others in the West's institutions

Europe will this week reverberate with abstract argument about institutions. On Thursday, a planet of the great and good will descend on the placid city of Zurich to commemorate Winston Churchill's speech there 50 years ago calling for a united Europe. Javier Solana, the Spanish Secretary-General of Nato, speaks in London the same day. Anyone discontented by the Bosnian elections will lament the failure of the institutions of what used to be called "the West" to do better. No one will refer to a little-



mentioned fact of late 20th-century diplomacy: none of the outfits such as the European Union, Nato or the United Nations work unless

leaders emerge to set agendas and the members are ready to be led. The universal pretence that all states are equal inside the bodies born in the Cold War is a tadful fiction. When these institutions begin to drift or limp, they can only be revived by small inner groups of states which seize the levers of power without boasting that they are in charge.

Secret cabals can often create and execute strategies which would be paralysed by fully-fledged consultation and decision. When France and Germany do this in the

EU, Britain is often the loser. But the British mind rather less in Nato, being on the inside track. In the past year, the Atlantic alliance has been rescued from death by irrelevance. America, Germany, Britain and France have gradually solidified into an informal directorate, often known in the four capitals as the "G4".

The governments did not exactly design this development: they try not to appear exclusive because countries which do not get invited tend to com-

plain. But the difficulties of spreading military risks in Bosnia more evenly between Europe and America, and the delicate statecraft required to keep Russia and Central Europe happy at the same time, squeezed the Nato system into a subtly different shape.

Without much fanfare, Nato has started making some hard choices. Or rather the G4 has taken the initiatives and hopes to have them rubber-stamped by a Nato summit attended by the newly-elected American President in the late spring of next

year. This is the closest thing that presently exists to a "common foreign and security policy" for Europe. The EU's version mostly tends to reveal to the world how divided its members are on questions such as Iraq.

The policy's ambassador is Helmut Kohl, who has just made a crucial pair of visits to Moscow and Ukraine. Authorised by Washington, London and Paris, he told the ailing President Yeltsin that Nato would not name the Central European states to be taken as new members until the summit next spring; that

to avoid upsetting Moscow, very little would be said about it until then; that Nato had no intention of taking any of the three tiny Baltic republics as members, and Nato and Russia would agree a "charter" outlining every detail of their co-operation.

Her Kohl's journey revealed that Nato's big powers have finally buckled down to the job of working out how to fulfil the alliance's membership promises to countries such as Poland and Hungary without starting trouble in Mos-

cow. The new strategy might be summed up as "slow down, shut up and it's bad luck for the Balts".

But President Clinton's Ambassador to Nato can still predict, as he did in London last week, that enlargement of the alliance will happen on its 50th birthday, in April 1999. Given that states such as Poland are only going to be allowed into the EU very slowly, membership of Nato is still prized. Central Europeans have an exaggerated faith in Western institutions.

GEORGE BROCK

Italians turn backs on the birth of Padania

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN VENICE

UMBERTO BOSSI, the Northern League leader, yesterday declared the "birth of the Padanian nation" in Venice after a three-day march along the River Po "from the mountains to the sea".

The spectacle was staged in sunshine near St Mark's Square, with Signor Bossi surrounded by League flags and banners and cheering green-shirted supporters. But the turnout, amid a heavy police presence, was well below Signor Bossi's expectations, and his rallies in towns along the Po were sparsely attended.

Estimates put the Venice crowd at several thousand rather than the million Signor Bossi had boasted would support his new "government". "We had 100 times this number of people for the Pink Floyd concert seven years ago," one resident said.

Counter-rallies in support of a united Italy drew far bigger attendances. In Milan, spectators were addressed by Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the far-right Alleanza Nazionale. Signor Fini, who hopes to attract disillusioned League voters in future, said to roars of approval that secession was "an insult to history and an insult to reason". He said Signor Bossi's trek across Italy had become a "farce" and urged court action over his call for the formation of a separatist militia.

Police estimated that more



Bossi's journey dogged by moments of comedy

than 150,000 people from all over Italy joined the demonstration in Milan, the country's financial capital and headquarters of the League. Organisers put the turnout at 250,000.

Smaller pro-unity rallies also took place on the Po, including one at San Benedetto Po, where Green Party supporters flew a string of balloons across the river, and at Piacenza, where one

banner read: "Free the North, but from the League".

In the southern port of Bari, President Scalfaro hinted that Signor Bossi might be prosecuted for "incitement to illegal acts". A democracy which did not apply the law would not be worthy of the name, the President said.

President Scalfaro's comments followed a call by Signor Bossi on the last leg of his Po Valley trip near Mantua, for his followers to join a "Padanian National Guard", with the League's green-shirted stewards as its nucleus.

In Turin, where ugly clashes broke out late on Friday night between left-wing demonstrators and League supporters, magistrates initiated moves to charge Signor Bossi with "violating the constitution".

Newspapers said the League, which gained 10 per cent of the vote in April's general election, may have reached its high watermark by embracing the separatist cause. According to opinion polls, only 7 per cent of Italians support secession by the North.

President Scalfaro said a nation of more than 50 million people would not be "troubled" by thousands of demonstrators, "or even a million" who did not represent an ethnic minority.

Signor Bossi's quasi-mystical journey down the Po,

which began with him drawing water from the river's source in a flask of Venetian glass, was marked by rallies attended by thousands — but sometimes only hundreds — of people. In Turin, Signor Bossi claimed that 60,000 attended his opening rally. Police put the figure at 3,000.

Signor Bossi responded by accusing the media of "telling lies" about his true level of support. But his journey was dogged by moments of comic opera.

Signor Bossi, whose local protest movement grew into a national force at the end of the 1980s, arrived in Venice in a flotilla led by a catamaran. But he had to abandon a planned boat journey along the Po because the river was too low. In Turin, fireworks failed to spell out "Padania" in the night sky. Signor Bossi blamed "sabotage".

In Verona, Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister and leader of Forza Italia, told a pro-unity rally that the Bossi march had been "a flop". Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, said the League's declaration of independence was "a ridiculous and artificial event".

Earlier, a small fire bomb exploded at the League's headquarters in Venice, but caused little damage. Signor Bossi described the bomb as "the opening shot" in the central states' battle with the new "nation of Padania".



Danny Mendez, Miss Italy, addresses a weekend anti-Bossi rally

Chinese to hear rights debate

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

IT SEEMS, to say the least, like satire: MPs from around the world engaging in "open debate" in a society where all opposition figures have given up the struggle, or are in jail, labour camps, or exile.

But members of 122 parliaments, including six from Britain, will listen in Peking's Great Hall of the People today as President Jiang Zemin, the head of China's Communist Party, welcomes up to 600 members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Over the next five days, they will discuss human rights and other issues in a state which rejects foreign criticism of its record as interference in its internal affairs.

"We will have a discussion on the general promotion and respect of human rights which is an item of the conference and which will be discussed in public," said Pierre Corillon, secretary-general of the union.

Robin Newmann, the union's information officer, said MPs would be free to say whatever they wished. However, the Chinese believe that the human rights to be discussed are those of about 80 parliamentarians from other countries where rights have been violated.

During the United Nations women's conference last year, security men tried to halt and monitor discussion of human rights debate among non-government delegations.

Split in Muslim vote could help Serb win

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE next President of Bosnia-Herzegovina could be Momcilo Krajisnik, a Serb close to Radovan Karadzic, who has been indicted for war crimes.

The prospect of Mr Krajisnik becoming first chairman of the Presidency is believed to be behind an announcement by the Muslim-led Bosnian Government yesterday that it would not recognise the results of Saturday's election in the Serb-held half of Bosnia because of voting irregularities. The results are not expected to be announced until tonight.

Saturday's election was a contest between leading Serb, Muslim and Croat candidates who will share power in the new tripartite presidency. Voting has been largely along ethnic lines, with each community electing a member from its own ranks to represent it in the country's highest ruling body. Mr Krajisnik is the only serious contender among Serbs in the Serb half of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while Alija Izetbegovic, the Muslim leader and Bosnia's current President, faces competition from Haris Silajdzic, his for-

mer Prime Minister. The race could therefore split the Muslim vote, allowing Mr Krajisnik to win the highest number of ballots.

The new presidency will consist of a Serb, a Muslim and a Croat who will rotate as head of state. The candidate who receives the most votes becomes the first chairman. If Mr Izetbegovic wins the most votes, the Muslim complaint is expected to be withdrawn, diplomats say.

Accusations of fraud from the Muslims and the Serbs appear to be the beginning of post-election bickering that could dog the joint institutions the poll was meant to create.

The aim of the elections was



to unify the country after four years of war that divided it into ethnic fiefdoms. The vote nonetheless proceeded much more smoothly than almost anyone had predicted with almost no incidents of violence and only few reports of voting irregularities.

The Serbs countered the Bosnian complaint yesterday. Citing irregularities with the refugee ballots which were cast abroad but counted in local municipalities, Serb officials ordered polling stations in Serb territory to stop counting ballots for several hours.

The potential crisis was attributed to a misunderstanding after a delegation from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which organised the election, met Serb officials in Pale.

While international officials discounted both complaints as political posturing, they warned that the early round of accusations boded ill for the establishment of the central government that is supposed to govern both the Serb Republic and the Muslim Croat Federation.

Gunning for democracy

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN ORAVAC, NEAR ZVORNIK, BOSNIA

SHELTERED by Nato firepower, Bosnia's elections on Saturday proceeded almost without incident. "We were prepared for the worst but we had a day that could be described as dull," said Carl Bildt, the international peace co-ordinator.

Yet aside from the crowding of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which ran the election, the day seemed as much to lay the foundations for a second Bosnian war as cement the Dayton peace initiative.

Muslim voters crossing the dividing line between government and Serb-held areas to vote in Oravac, near Zvornik in eastern Bosnia, resembled prisoners more than an electorate free to move according

to the Dayton stipulations. The first coach at the polling station, a tent in a quarry designated for them by the Serbs, was ringed by armed Serb police who far outnumbered the 12 Muslim passengers.

The voters were taken to the tent in small groups, passing police to fill out their ballot forms beneath the Serb flag. US attack helicopters circled overhead while heavy machineguns and grenade launchers clustered around the road beyond. There must have been at least five guns to every voter.

"I know I'm not supposed to comment," said one of the OSCE election observers. "but, my God, there are 28 policemen here, soldiers ev-

erywhere, helicopters buzzing us. Is this oppressive or what?"

As more coaches arrived, the atmosphere became increasingly strained when some Muslims asked to proceed a mile and a half to a voting station in Grahovo, the village from which they were purged in 1992.

Roberto Barbarulo, head of the OSCE in the Zvornik area, handled the situation with an oblique aplomb, explaining to the Muslims that the day was for "voting not visiting", and that though technically they were free to move where they wanted, the limitations on their movement were "recommended". They accepted the news stoically enough. "Dayton is one reality, this is another," one said.



Brynner stars in *The Magnificent Seven*

Brynner cowboy gear up for sale

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE black hat and two six-shooters used by Yul Brynner in the film *The Magnificent Seven* are to go under the hammer in Paris today.

The richly embroidered silk costumes the late actor wore in his best known role, as the King of Siam in the musical *The King and I*, are also among the 250 lots to go on sale at Drouot, the Paris auction house.

The collection of memorabilia, paintings and furniture comes from Criqueboeuf, Brynner's beloved Normandy mansion, 18 miles from Deauville. The upkeep of the mansion drove him to play the King of Siam six days a week, 50 weeks a year, for 15 years.

The sale includes his Mexican cowboy boots from *The Magnificent Seven* and the jewel-encrusted red velvet slippers he wore in *The King and I*.

Brynner was a passionate art collector and among the works to be auctioned are sketches by his friend Jean Cocteau, one of which bears the legend: "My Yul, I am still very ill... a line from you would give me courage."

Brynner died in 1985 from lung cancer, aged 65. He had smoked up to four packs a day. A cigarette case, a gift from Marlene Dietrich, will also be sold.

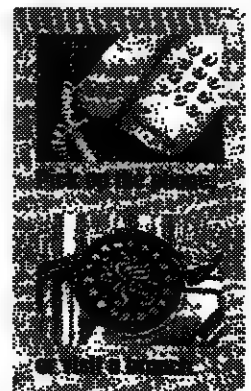
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Helping to predict natural catastrophes

Disaster warning

BRITISH scientists are to collaborate with insurers to develop better ways of predicting natural disasters. Flash floods in east Kent and the Pyrenees, and a series of hurricanes battering the American coast have recently emphasised nature's potential for sudden destruction. Some climatologists believe that global warming will increase that potential, but even if it doesn't there is plenty of scope for better prediction.

If the insurance industry took better advantage of the latest techniques, says Dr Dougal Goodman, deputy director of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, it could operate more profitably and perhaps avoid some of the errors that brought the Lloyd's market to its knees.

For the individual, the news could be good, or bad. Some people may find they have to pay more for insurance, while others will pay less. In recent years houses have been constructed in many areas previously left undeveloped because they lay in a flood plain. Among the projects Dr Goodman wants to explore are the increased risks of flood losses in such areas.

He has already interested four large insurance groups and hopes to attract matching funds from the Department of Trade and Industry under the Foresight Challenge programme. The scheme, called Tsunami (Technology and Science from the Universities, NERC Institutes and the Meteorological Office for Insurance) would provide a network of advice, and fund research programmes.

The science would come from blue-chip laboratories: the University of East Anglia, the BAS, the British Geological Survey, the Institute of Hydrology, the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, the Southampton

ton Oceanography Centre, the Met Office and the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research. Small consultancy firms will also be involved.

"The fragmentation of the Lloyd's insurance market has meant that the industry has not supported research as it has on the Continent," Dr Goodman says. "If Lloyd's were a single company, there is no doubt that it would have developed much greater scientific input."

In Bermuda, he says, a new reinsurance market specialising in catastrophic reinsurance has already been established, threatening London's position in the world market. "Some of the new Bermudian reinsurers have based their whole business strategy on the application of science within computer models."

To get Tsunami launched, he needs to find ten companies willing to put in £30,000 a year each. With matching funds from the DTI, that would provide £1.2 million over two years to finance six projects selected by the participants.

Examples might be better prediction of climatic extremes or of exceptional rain-storm events on UK cities. Earthquakes, cyclones, floods, subsidence, erosion, and damage to satellites are other areas where science may have something to offer the insurers.

"Traditional actuarial analysis may not be appropriate when losses show dramatic changes with time or when there are rare, single-event catastrophes," Dr Goodman says. "Through applying scientific principles to loss experience data, it is possible to underwrite more profitably." He says that the industry has shown "real interest" in the scheme, but cannot yet reveal which companies are involved.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

The power locked inside a bubble

BUBBLES usually conjure up a gentle image, floating in the breeze or rising through a glass of champagne. But Professor Timothy Mason, of Coventry University, sees them as powerful new ways of controlling and facilitating chemical reactions.

He told last week's meeting of the British Association that bubbles created in liquids by ultrasound contain enough energy to fragment metals or break chemical bonds. The bubbles, each about a tenth of a millimetre in diameter, collapse to create immensely high temperatures and pressures.

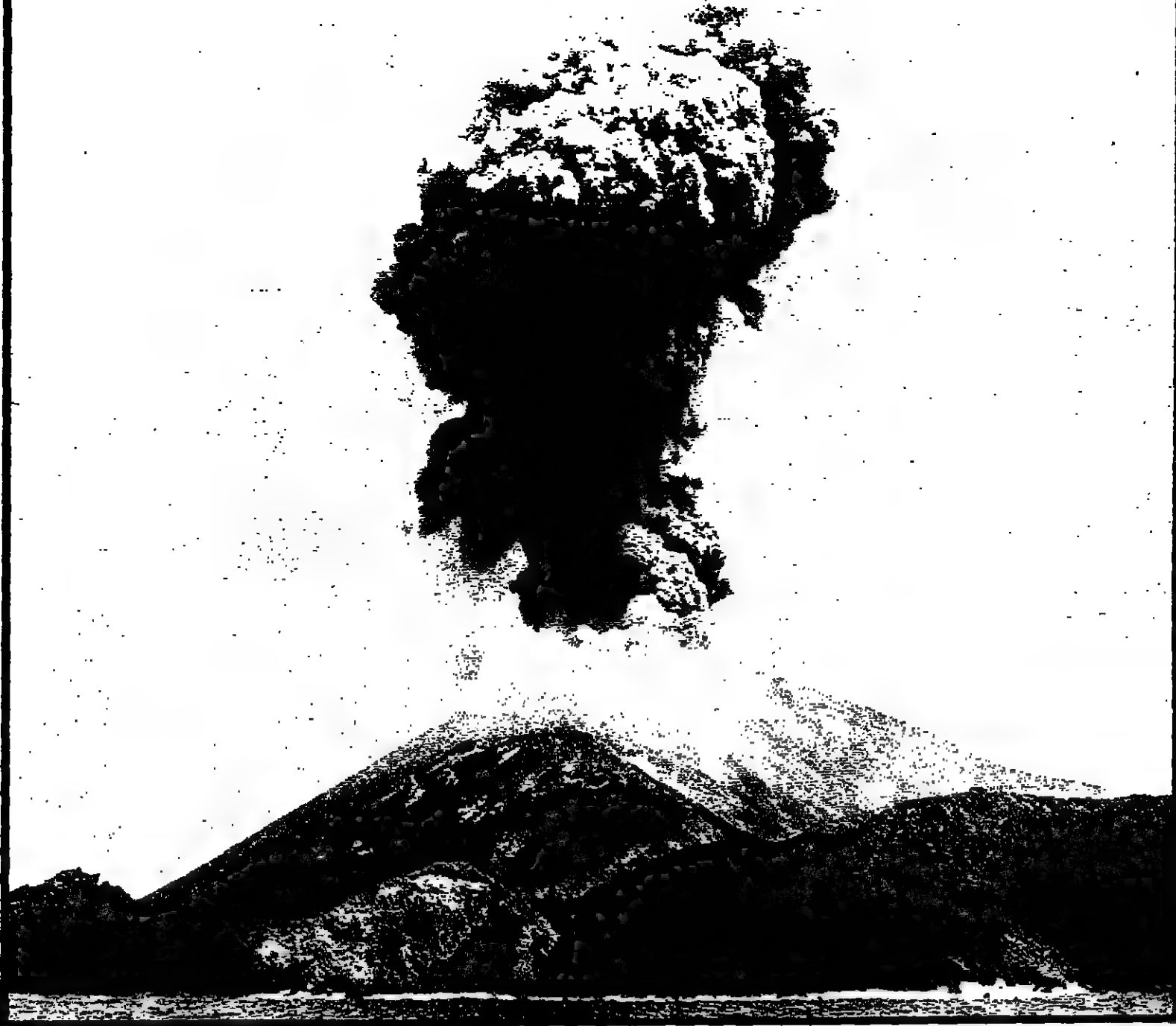
Professor Mason said that the energy could be used to speed up chemical reactions, remove pollution from water, extract flavourings from plant raw materials, or improve the quality of metal castings by improving dispersion of materials.

Scanning the brains of our ancestors

BRAIN scans have been used by archaeologists in Canterbury to diagnose the cause of death in people who died 600 years ago.

One of the scans, of a medieval male skull, shows the presence of a benign growth known as a frontal osteoma. Trevor Anderson, of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, told last week's meeting of the British Association that in modern medicine, such growths are well-known, though infrequent.

Another skull, this time of a medieval woman buried just outside Rochester Cathedral, shows a larger growth in the right frontal bone of the skull. The scans, carried out by Colin Felt, of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, reveal that this woman had a condition called meningiomas hyperostosis, a tumour of the outer lining of the brain. This tumour almost certainly proved fatal.



The mouth that roared: volcanoes such as this can send huge clouds of dust and gases into the upper atmosphere, shaping the global climate

Wait for the bang

William Burroughs explains how the massive forces released by a volcanic eruption can dramatically affect climate around the world

Volcanoes have once again hit the headlines. According to experts at the British Association meeting last week, the world should be on alert for a major eruption. However, a high death toll may come not from the eruption itself but from the dramatic way that such explosions affect the climate. For example, it is estimated that 80,000 of the 92,000 people who died in 1815 after an eruption of Tambora.

Indonesia, starved to death because dust caused the atmosphere to cool and damaged their harvests. Climatologists are now beginning to understand how volcanoes shape the global climate.

Benjamin Franklin first identified the potential of volcanoes to alter the climate. He suggested that the bitter winter of 1783/84 in Northern Europe was caused by the dust cloud produced by the huge eruption of Laki in Iceland in July 1783, which dimmed the sun in Paris for months.

Explosive volcanic eruptions can inject vast amounts of dust, and more significantly, sulphur dioxide into the upper atmosphere. Here, the sulphur dioxide is converted into sulphuric acid aerosols.

At altitudes of 15 to 30 kilometres, these minute aerosol particles remain in the stratosphere for several years. The result is a dust veil in the upper atmosphere, which can absorb sunlight. This heats the stratosphere but, since less solar radiation reaches the Earth's surface, cooling takes place at lower levels.

Analysis of past eruptions suggested that these processes did have a significant impact on the local climate. There was, however, considerable doubt about just how big the impact on the global climate was. This uncertainty arose because any cooling is accompanied by shifts in global weather patterns. Also, the analysis was based largely on

observations of climate in middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere, parts of which in any case experience disproportionate cooling. These problems were compounded by the fact that after the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883, there was no truly significant eruption until Agung in Bali in 1963.

All this changed in the early 1980s. First, there was the eruption of Mount St Helens, Washington, in 1980. However, climatically speaking, it was a damp squib because it did not inject much dust high into the stratosphere. More significantly, it was low in sulphur compounds, and had a limited cooling effect.

The eruption of the sulphur-rich El Chichón in Mexico in 1982 provided confirmation of the climatic importance of this element. Then the massive eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 provided the ideal opportunity for testing all the hypotheses. Furthermore, the availability of accurate temperature measurements by weather satellites since 1979 has provided genuinely global observations of the impact of the stratospheric dust veil created by both El Chichón and Pinatubo.

These confirm that large volcanoes do cool the climate at ground level and greater warming of the stratosphere. The effects of a single eruption last for two to three years.

They also show that computer models of the global climate can predict the climatic impact of volcanoes with considerable accuracy. When

Mount Pinatubo erupted, it was estimated that 20 million tons of sulphur compounds were injected into the stratosphere, by far the biggest eruption this century.

This led James Hansen, at the Goddard Institute of Space Studies in New York, to predict that within about a year Pinatubo would cool the global climate by half a degree and then the climate would return to normal within about three years or so. Both satellite and surface-based measurements have confirmed that this was a remarkably accurate prediction.

These results have important implications for atmospheric sciences. First, they confirm that large volcanic eruptions do play a significant, if short-lived role in climatic change. The Tambora eruption in Indonesia, which injected five to ten times more material into the stratosphere than Pinatubo, was responsible, in 1816, for the "year without summer" when exceptionally late frosts destroyed crops.

Secondly, the success of computer models of global climate in accurately predicting Pinatubo's impact is a feather in the cap of the modellers. If they are capable of handling the types of perturbation produced by volcanoes, we can have greater confidence that they are on the right track in predicting the overall effects of human activities, with our combined emissions of greenhouse gases, aerosols and particulates.

Thirdly, since the effects of Pinatubo have vanished, we can expect the warming of the global climate to revert to its upward trend (unless there is another big eruption soon). All of which explains why climatologists view a new eruption as being crucial to a better understanding of climate.

William Burroughs is writing a book on climate change for the Cambridge University Press.

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حکومت من الامم

'There are, of course, those who think that an ex-Director-General of MI5 is not a respectable person'

Stella Rimington became the first woman head of MI5 in 1992. Now, six months after retiring, she writes for the first time about the unique pressures of the job

Of course, I never thought that life in retirement was going to be quite the same for me as for my predecessors. Nothing about my time as Director-General of MI5 had been predictable since it was decided that I was to be the first head of the service whose name should be publicly announced.

Though my predecessors' names became known gradually over time, for them there was nothing like that moment of shock when I suddenly emerged from the shadows, and the world, enthusiastically encouraged by the media, realised with fascinated amazement that the occupant of that previously most mysterious of jobs, head of MI5, was a woman. I became overnight a well-known public figure, "a celeb" as my colleagues scathingly put it, even though for quite some time no one knew what I looked like.

To large sections of the media, peddling as usual their stereotyped views on the role of women, my appointment was a challenge. "Housewife Superspy," the tabloids trumpeted when my name was announced. "Mother of Two Cets Tough with Terrorists".

Let's put the little lady back in front of the kitchen sink where she belongs. Then there was the love interest, essential if there's a woman involved. My children and I, listening to *Today* on Radio 4 as we had breakfast one morning, heard *What the Papers Say* telling the nation that one tabloid had a headline "MI5 Boss in Secret Love Split". They rushed out to buy the paper to see what I had been up to but came back deflated. "Boring," was their verdict on the paper's revelation of the fact that my husband and I had been amicably separated for some time.

Not surprisingly, much confusion followed all this publicity in many people's minds. Was I an entertainment figure, a media figure, a female icon or what? How exactly did I fit in? I was quite clear — I wasn't any of those things. I was a public servant with a very serious job to do. A job which included a policy of explaining as much as could be explained about the role and workings of the Security Service, consistent with its remaining an effective security intelligence organisation. And consistent too with the position of a public servant accountable to ministers and Parliament.

So invitations to appear as a judge on *Masterchef*, to be interviewed by *American Vogue* and to be a guest on TV shows were turned down. As were, after a lot of thought, suggestions that I should be interviewed by serious commentators on TV, radio and in the press. But invitations to give the Richard Dimbleby Lecture and other public lectures were accepted and used as an opportunity to put on the record some basic facts about this fictionalised part of the defences of the country. A booklet was produced about the service and recruiting literature giving an idea of what a new entrant to the service might expect.

In four years or so it was never going to be possible to explain enough to dissipate all the myths generated by an industry of spy-story writers. And the explaining process will go on, pursued by my successor and his successor in their own unique way. Some myths will always remain and a degree of mystery will always be generated if the security and intelligence services are to remain effective. And in my retirement I am finding that the myths attach to me in a way that is sometimes rather disconcerting.

Some people seem to find me rather sinister. In particular they appear to think that I am in possession of detailed information about everyone's private lives. I find this disturbing and not a little disappointing when I think how much effort I put in to explaining the limits on the activities of the Security Service. Was I wasting my breath?

The other evening, at a

dinner given by a leading British company, I found myself sitting at the same table as the Ambassador of a former Warsaw Pact country. I could see that he was anxious to unburden himself of something. Halfway through the first course, he suddenly announced to the rest of the table: "She knows the names of all my mistresses." A frisson passed around the table. My fellow guests, distinguished businessmen, vice-chancellors, politicians and Members of the House of Lords to a man, shifted uneasily in their seats. They more than half believed him. I could see them wondering did I know the names of their mistresses too? And what else did I know about them? From that point on they were very polite, but distant.

Others are nervous of me for different reasons. They think I'll get them blown up. When I was appointed Director-General, some newspapers, very thoughtlessly and to my mind unforgivably, publicised my address. One prominently published a photograph of my house. Maybe they have learnt more sense since then.

I was interested to hear the Editor of one tabloid newspaper speaking on the radio a few weeks ago about his decision to name the Conservative members of the Home Affairs Select Committee who did not support a ban on handguns. His paper had published addresses at which the MP could be contacted so that the public could "Tell the Six Guilty MPs What You Think". He was indignant when it was suggested to him that it was irresponsible to publish the home addresses of the MPs. Of course, his paper would not be so stupid, he said, it was their constituency office addresses they had published. Such a well-developed sensitivity is new, as I know to my cost.

Some members of the Islington middle class with whom I had quietly and happily shared a street for ten years suddenly turned quite nasty when they realised that they were living close to the Director-General of MI5.

They made it clear to me that they no longer wanted me as a neighbour. The message came over loud and clear: people like me should not live in ordinary places. One wrote to the local paper complaining that my helicopters constantly hovering overhead were disturbing his family — the helicopters were, in fact, connected with the policing of Arsenal football matches and had nothing at all to do with me. Another asked me not to leave for work just as he was taking his daughter to school, in case those trying to shoot me missed and hit her instead. So in my retirement I shall hope to find some braver neighbours than I found in Islington.

My family are hoping that we will not have to resort to living under an assumed name. It's bad enough, they say, having to have a PO box number as our address and getting all our mail late, but for goodness sake don't make us pretend to be someone else. They have not been trained in the covert life and they seem to me, perhaps as a reaction to my former profession, to be abnormally open and above-board.

When I was Director-General, in common with some other well-known people, I travelled using an alias to avoid my movements being easily traceable. One member of my family travelling with me had to have documents in the same false name that I was using. They found deceit so alien that they signed their



Housewife superspy, female icon — or a dedicated public servant with a serious mission? Stella Rimington found that the tabloids struggled to come to terms with her role



Out of the shadows: Rimington at her desk at MI5

documents in their real name — not once but when the first ones had been replaced, a second time.

In the end I had to stand over them while they signed, saying: "Your name is *****. And you'd never get a job in the Security Service."

There are also, of course, people who think that an ex-Director-General of MI5 is not a respectable person. They seem to be most common in the universities. These are the conspiracy theorists for whom the service is the tool of a repressive State. They are inclined to attach more weight to books which accuse the Security Service, and me in particular, of destabilising governments, undermining unions and penetrating pressure groups, than to all the now officially available information about the work of the service, the threats to national security, the controls on the

service's activities, and the oversight and complaints mechanisms designed to prevent abuse of powers. Those people believe that former Director-Generals in retirement should be ostracised and excluded from decent society.

Thankfully for me, all those I've mentioned are the exceptions. There are many more for whom a former head of MI5, particularly a female one, is a desirable after-dinner speaker, giver-away of prizes, opener of fêtes and lecturer on all sorts of occasions. Enough I think to keep me busy for some time to come.

There are even some who think that such a person might have a useful contribution to make in other areas of life. And even more, I am thankful to say, who see me as I see myself — another retired senior public servant who did an essential job for the State and its citizens.



TOMORROW

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Stella Rimington on the pleasures of a 'normal' life

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Part One of a new series: Jason Cowley and Alex Garland warn of the difficulties and

Bridging the gap year

The gap year has never been more popular. We examine the dilemmas it presents for both parents and children, and look at new research which shows the culture shock it can create

Who goes where

Most students choosing to spend their gap year overseas are unprepared for the culture shock awaiting them. Last year GAP Activity Projects, which places volunteers around the world, in association with Bristol University, ran a study evaluating the effect on 500 students. Each was asked to complete a questionnaire three weeks after arriving at their placement.

"Early impressions are important," Dr David Mumford, senior lecturer in psychiatry at Bristol University, says. "This is when the food, language and culture of a country seem most unfamiliar." Not surprisingly cultural distance from Britain — in terms of climate, dress, language, food, religion and customs — was the strongest predictor. When instances of culture shock were plotted on a graph against distance, the result showed that Asian countries caused the most problems. Other difficulties were blamed on unhappiness at work, unpleasant physical surroundings, unpalatable food, ill-health, difficulty getting on with a GAP partner and restrictions on personal freedom.

"Of these, though, unrest in the workplace was by far the most significant," Dr Mumford says. "Whether the student had contact with a GAP agent or was travelling with a partner was less important than whether he was happy in his work, got on with his boss or felt he was doing something valuable." John Cornell, director of GAP, says that "overwhelming feelings of culture shock are unpleasant and may result in volunteers not completing their placement... But cultural travel is always to some degree stressful: we do it because it is also rewarding. For most volunteers these emotional ups and downs are part of what is so worthwhile about the experience. Only a very few run into serious difficulties and elect to come home."

PLAN YOUR YEAR

Given the opportunity, most students would take a year off. They are prevented from doing so only by lack of funds, or youthful inhibition, or both, according to Dawn Howell, of STA Travel. "Last year we asked 10,000 students what they would do if they were given an extra £2,000: more than 50 per cent said they would take time out to spend it on a round-the-world ticket," she says.

The number of students who have a gap year is surprisingly small. Exact figures are hard to come by but Richard Dennis, of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), reports that in 1995, 17,134 out of 290,896 with firm offers deferred entry to university for 12 months; the figure in 1994 was 14,530. The number of students taking time out between university and full-time employment is considerably higher.

The most popular destination for those going abroad in their gap year is Australia. "Students are eager to visit America, Australasia and Asia as part of a round-the-world ticket," Ms Howell says. "The best country for working in is Australia, with most taking advantage of the availability of one-year working visas. Waitressing, bar work, fruit-picking and temping are the preferred jobs."

Other popular pursuits include teaching English as a foreign language, doing voluntary work overseas, living on one of the 270 kibbutzim in Israel and, for women, working as an au pair.

At a recent party at St Hugh's College, Oxford, for historians, I could point to the ones who have had a year off. They seem so much more confident and assured; their experience also helps them to settle in to university life more easily. Living away from home does not seem so strange.

The key is to use your year off positively; it's no good just sitting around. If you can afford it, you should go abroad. The student may never have that much time on his hands again.

Keith Dugdale, director of the careers advisory service at the University of Manchester and UMIST, urges students embarking on a gap year to choose how they spend their time with care. "We feel it is a really good thing to do provided the time is not spent at

home working in a routine job. The student should undertake testing tasks, travel, do interesting things. "Employers have a good attitude towards those who have had a gap year, especially if it has been well used. They feel that the extra experience gives young people a chance to work out their ideas and beliefs, so that they return to their studies with renewed commitment and determination. It also looks good on the CV."

But some educationists are more circumspect. "The main problem with a year abroad is that it has to be carefully planned to be worthwhile," says Shewan Duthie, careers master at Robert Gordon College in Aberdeen. "All too often I have seen it used simply as a means of getting a break from the academic grind and, in the process, the pupils concerned have broken good study routines."

Adrienne Irving, personnel manager for the Leeds office of Grant Thornton, an international firm of business advisers, says employers are impressed if students have shown initiative or developed new skills, such as learning a language. "What is important is what students have made of their opportunities. If it has built their personality, taught self-sufficiency, the ability to budget, given maturity, this is an asset. If these qualities do not emerge, then the fact that they have missed this opportunity to develop would probably count against them."

Margaret Murray, head of the CBI's education policy group, agrees: "Employers are not impressed by the sort of travel where you wander round the world with a rucksack dreaming. If a young person can answer the question: 'What has been achieved as a result of the year?', then we would be interested in interviewing them."

JASON COWLEY

Through the moral minefield

SUN AND SHIN

A friend, Jim, left school and bought a one-way ticket to Bangkok. His intention was to see the world before university sucked the will out of him. He planned to spend some time in Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and finally, Tokyo.

We will skip five months. Not that the five months aren't worth hearing, but in a way the story is told just as well by passing them over, and instead describing where Jim ended up.

Deeply in love, first, with Appen — a beautiful prostitute whose house he now shared. Secondly, in a Bangkok squatter camp, living with the huge community of girls and boys who worked the Patpong go-go bars. Thirdly, intoxicated on the extraordinary world he had stumbled into, not to mention the various drugs he was taking. Having never smoked a joint, Jim was now a pharmaceutical enthusiast.

Jim's story ended when a team of private detectives, hired by his parents, managed to track him down. One night, lying in bed with Appen, the door of the shack was kicked open. Three men bundled in. Jim was bundled out and the next thing he knew he was on a plane to London.

For the sake of any nervous parent whose kids are about to go travelling, it's worth bearing in mind that what happened to Jim was pretty unusual. But having said that, it is worth bearing in mind that there are some aspects to Jim's experience that are not unusual. In fact, they are a recurring feature of many accounts of gap-year travel.

Jim had never smoked a joint before flying to Thailand and, prior to meeting Appen, Jim would not have slept with a prostitute.

Nothing much to do with AIDS; he disapproved of prostitution on moral grounds, particularly in a country where girls are made to enter brothels by force, coercion and poverty. But within a week of arrival in Thailand, everything had turned around. That is not to say that, if Jim had stayed in England, he would have always continued to avoid drugs and prostitutes. One can be reasonably



Alex Garland: tourists try to carve up continents into theme parks

sure that the turnaround would have taken a lot longer than seven days.

I empathise with Jim a great deal. Speaking for myself, as a naive 18-year-old, I flew to an exotic land where it was clear that many of the rules of home no longer applied. From this, in some way, a subconscious conclusion was reached that all of the rules of home no longer applied.

Years of classrooms and exams, with further years of work or university on the horizon, encourage the instinct to go a little wild. Suddenly a country like Thailand can seem an adult's Disneyland.

Needless to say, Disneyland for adults does not exist (unless you count Disneyland itself). All countries have rules. It is up to the tourist to find out what they are.

The issues involved in travelling outside the West are spectacularly intricate. Drugs aside, simply by haggling with guest-house owners we can upset fragile local economies. By turning up in countries with repressive regimes we can aid the regimes' survival. By lying on a beach we encourage a tourist industry

that can damage farming or fishing communities. It's easy to make mistakes, while weaving through this moral minefield, and even easier when just out of school.

ALEX GARLAND

The Beach, by Alex Garland, is published on October 14, by Viking (£10.99)

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CHANGING TIMES

مكتبة من الأصل

temptations ahead; Giles Coren stays put; Rachel Campbell-Johnston goes to the Andes

Forget adventure: concentrate on broadening the bank balance

TRAVELS IN NORTH LONDON

There is absolutely nothing at all to be said for taking a year out between school and university and using it to travel the world. Supporters of the gap-year fraud claim that it broadens the mind. As if a broad mind were of any use at all in settling down to the miserable grind of a workaday existence — in life, it is only those with the very narrowest horizons who survive.

Personally, and for a great many reasons, I was determined to avoid a gap year. But it was a hard fight.

The first disaster was that my chosen university insisted that I took a year off. "You will be very welcome in 1989," they said. "But you need to mature." Mature? I was not a cheese. Did that venerable begowned gentleman actually believe that to pick up an exotic venerable disease in a Peruvian brothel or to lose my right arm wrestling with an alligator in the Amazon would in some way make me keener to read Spenser?

I will never know. All I do know is that I was stuck. In July 1987 when the school year ended, with the prospect of 15 months before I started university with nothing to do, and no money. I really didn't want to travel.

Soon after term ended some friends headed off to canoe up the Yangtze. I was invited but declined. "But this is your last chance to do your own thing," they cried. I refused to concede this.

I believed then, and still believe, that any time I want to sit in a Tibetan mud hut with amoebic dysentery, swapping *Rough Guides* and even rougher skin diseases, or buy a leather ankle-bracelet in Bangkok and like, never taking it off even when I die, then I will.

What is more, even if I had wanted to go away I couldn't have afforded it. At first, when I was still reasonably open to the idea of leaving London, I truly believed that I would be able to work, save up, and go. How little I knew. It was as futile as the ancient dream of hard work and early retirement.

My first job was in Harrods toy

department, graduating to the position of elf in Santa's Grotto in the three months before Christmas. £13.13 per hour before tax, about eighty quid a week to take home. You do not travel far on that. Most of it goes on satisfying the "yabadabadoo" beer-drinking instinct that comes every evening at half past five. The grimness of the working day means that every penny is sucked into winding down. And remember, this is the most cash you have ever seen in your life — at that age, it just doesn't allow itself to build up. No. In the gap year as in life, once you are locked into gainful employment, it is impossible to get out.

It is the private income posse who travel. Dosh from Daddy. Tooling

round America with his corporate plastic, or backpacking round Bali, dossing in Amex-friendly hotels. They will say that they "worked" for their round-the-air ticket, meaning either "Grampa paid me for my A-level results" or "I earned nine pounds walking the neighbour's dog and my parents paid the rest". It is they, and only they, who go away.

But, and here is the point, I learnt more about life, death, and the nature of humanity in the 15 months that I spent in London than anyone who came back from the depths of South-East Asia saying, "Man, on Ko Samui you could buy a hut on the beach, a good woman, and three bags of the finest sensimela, and still have change out of a hen."

and still have change out of a hen."

What did that broaden? Far more enlightening to work a till in Knightsbridge and see what happens to a posh woman in a Hermes scarf when her credit card won't work.

I worked in the Brompton National Heart Hospital, in the cleansing and sterilising unit on the top floor, with a dozen middle-aged Vietnamese women, scraping tumorous organs out of blue plastic kidney bowls and hosing out as much of the clotting plasma as I could before sending it down to be used again. Now, you learn an awful lot more about Vietnam by watching the games an elderly Vietnamese lady can play with an extracted European kidney, than you would from any number of months spent yomping along the Mekong.

I was pencilled in for a cricket tour of

India over Christmas, 1987-88, but cancelled because, as a busy elf, it was a difficult period to take off. And after the hospital work was endless months with a north London market research company. They even sued me for breach of contract when I left to take up my university place.

The ones who travelled in the Third World, or dug ditches, or saved pandas or bits of the Berlin Wall are mostly bankers and lawyers now, satisfied that six months of sunshine in their late teens will see them through their miserable existence. They did it only to earn the right to feel good about prostituting the rest of their lives. I simply started earlier, and had longer to adjust.

Whatever you do in your gap year, you do not mature, but merely age. And wherever you spend your time it is wasted. You did not need the time off then, you need it now. It is worth bearing in mind that, however good you might think your gap year was, if you hadn't taken it you would be a year younger now. And who wouldn't give up their raggedly old Kurdish carpet bag and recurring dysentery for that?

GILES COREN

'I learnt to survive by selling earrings'

SOUTH AMERICA

During my year out I was often asked: "Doesn't your mother care about you?" Family-minded Latin Americans were perplexed to find a 17-year-old girl drifting unaccompanied around their continent. But I had never doubted my mother's solicitude. Rather, I was grateful that she cared for us enough to waive her own anxieties aside and let us wend our ways through the world.

Gap years between school and university tend to be as unpredictable as the teenagers who embark on them. I began mine working at sea level as a shepherdess in the Falkland Islands, and ended it more than 13,000 feet up in the altiplano of Peru.

Leaving home in August 1981, I travelled, via Buenos Aires, to southern Argentina, where I caught a flight to Port Stanley. From there a Beaver floatplane took me on to Pebble Island, a forlorn ribbon of land ripped by vicious Atlantic tides.

Pebble, I was told, was owned by two elderly spinsters from Tunbridge Wells who, not unsurprisingly, had never been there. It was inhabited — somewhat feudally — by a farm manager who lived in "the big house" and five shepherds and their families whose whitewashed cottages lined a sheltered bay.

Newly sprung from the confines of a convent boarding

school, I was furnished with my own do-it-yourself independence kit: a red-roofed cottage with a stack of peat to fuel the rusting kitchen range, two sheepdogs in a kennel out at the back and a string of rangy horses in the paddock. There was an ill-tempered ungulate to give me milk every morning and a carcass of mutton deposited every week.

Looking back, I am glad that I travelled alone. Without

'A love of Latin America and a shepherd's whistle'

a friend from home to shore up shared prejudices, I accepted the ways of another culture at face value. I have often been asked whether I found it tedious to be confined on a wind-raked islet with only a handful of people and a few penguins for company. But I didn't.

At the time there was no cynicism to needle my enchantment, and the months I spent there created an internal landscape of delight. Of course I can think of times of loneliness and boredom. But all my emotional recollections are of unbridled happiness.

There was another benefit also to be reaped from my time in the Falklands. With nothing to spend money on, I saved my wages for a further adventure. In March 1982, when the shearing season was over, I set off to travel overland to Peru.

The long bus journey up the spine of Chile doubled as an intensive Spanish language course. But by the time I reached Peru, Britain had



The culture shock of living in some impoverished corner of the world can seem overwhelming but the experience may help to build up the gap-year traveller's resilience

declared war and a task force was furrowing its way across the South Atlantic. Evidently, my return ticket to the Falklands on an Argentine military flight was no longer valid.

In Lima I threw myself on the mercy of an alarmed Jesuit priest who found me lodging and work with a community of nuns. I began to teach five-year-olds in a shanty town school on the outskirts of the capital. The arrival of a red-headed "gringita" in the shanty appeared to be the most exciting event that had happened there since the kidnapping of a policeman the week before. I moved amid buzzing clouds of gaping children.

The culture shock brought me juddering to a halt. I had never even lived in a city before, let alone one like this. "I don't think I can bear it," I sobbed to the priest after the first week. "It was your choice to come," he replied. "Imagine what it is like for the poor who

have no option but to live here." At the time I was too swamped by self-pity to take his words in, but perhaps the fact that I still think of them today means something. I learnt to love living there, to adapt myself and be resilient. When my money ran out I learnt to make earnings which I sold on the street. In the end, I found myself working on an irrigation project in the high Andes where I learnt to speak Quechua, the Indian language, and survive on black potatoes. By the time I got back to England I didn't want to go to university any more. "Just try it," coaxed my mother. "You can always give up if you don't like it." Predictably, I stayed. My year out left a passion for Latin America, and a shepherd's whistle which can hail a taxi across a busy road.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

VISUAL ART

Artist on show: Turner Prize winner Rachel Whiteread gets her first retrospective, courtesy of the Tate Liverpool
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

DANCE

Dracula comes alive in Bradford, as Northern Ballet Theatre unveils Christopher Gable's latest production
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

MUSIC

Rostropovich plays the world premiere of a new cello concerto with the LSO at the Barbican
CONCERT: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday

BOOKS

Five hundred years of Christian history are reassessed in a new book about the Reformation
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

BBC PROMS

A Last Night well-judged

NO PANICS this year. Harrison Birtwistle's piece fuelled controversy after last year's Last Night of the Proms. But the new work on Saturday was a shrewd choice by Nicholas Kenyon, for Concerto in Pieces by the Danish composer Poul Ruders is both an admirable composition and palatable to a general audience.

The Concerto, commissioned last year for the BBC's Music Live '95 weekend in Birmingham, is a latter-day Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, based on the "Ho-ho-ho" Witches Chorus from *Dido and Aeneas*, and demonstrating what the BBC Symphony Orchestra's tubular bells and gongs sound like when immersed in pools of water.

In Shostakovich's Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings the soloists were Joanna MacGregor and John Wallace, the former dazzling as much with her fingerwork as with the orange and black creation in which she appeared. There was also Malcolm

Arnold's *The Sound Barrier*, Haydn's *Te Deum*, and vocal items from Mozart, Offenbach, Berlioz and Puccini, delivered in inimitable style by Felicity Lott and Ann Murray. The mock-ritual of the latter pair, provoked by unequal bouquets, led to a hilariously acted version of Weyse's *Cat Duet* and the claws were still out for their ornamentation of *Rule, Britannia* — a purist's nightmare.

The ritual outbreak of collective insanity in the Albert Hall was joined by another 25,000 revellers in Hyde Park, linked by video. Andrew Davis announced some impressive statistics for the season: record attendance (89 per cent sold for the main evening concert), and a healthy infusion of first-time and younger Promgoers — all this in a season containing major contemporary works. Classical music, it seems, is still on its feet.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Pride and joy

SIR Georg Solti's Beethoven is not for delicate sensibilities. Beefy, busy and brassy, it is a great showman's vision rather than a philosopher's. But a great show is exactly what the Choral Symphony on the Proms' penultimate night should be, and Solti's ebullient reading fitted the bill perfectly.

That was certainly the people's verdict. After the blistering final bars their cheers for the 83-year-old conductor, lasted practically as long as the slow movement — and Solti is not a man to rush his Adagio in the currently modish manner.

He was conducting his old pride and joy, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Chicago strings don't have quite the sweet strength displayed by the Berlin Philharmonic when it came to the Albert Hall a fortnight ago, but they played the Adagio with a beautiful touch. The wood-

wind chording was without blemish; the brass and timpanist supplied massive clout when required — and Solti's Beethoven is nothing if not cloutful.

Occasionally the strings raced slightly ahead of the wood, but that might have been because they were closer to Solti: those flashing eyes have not lost their mesmerising power. They had their effect, too, on the singers. After a brilliant bass recitative by René Pape, and spirited contributions from Deborah Voigt, Anne Sofie von Otter and Johan Botha, the 85 professionals of the BBC Singers and London Voices punched out a thrilling *Ode to Joy*.

Earlier the BBC Singers, conducted by Jane Glover, had revelled in the lush harmonies of Bruckner's motets. Altogether a night of sonorous grandeur.

RICHARD MORRISON

A free man in Tinseltown

Carol Allen talks to maverick Hollywood actor Kurt Russell about life, love, libertarianism and the need to escape from LA

Kurt Russell gives the immediate impression of being a "pretty cool guy". His manner is open and relaxed and he enjoys talking, he says, with anybody from high-ranking studio executives to the London cabbies whose ears he had been bending during his short stay in London. He also has a quick mind and there is something about him which suggests an iron determination beneath the laid-back manner. His eyes, masked in real life by gold-rimmed glasses rather than the famous Snake Plissken eyepatch, can turn from dancing laughter to blazing impatience when certain subjects are raised.

Snake is the tough maverick Russell first played 15 years ago in John Carpenter's movie *Escape from New York*, a role he now reprises in Carpenter's new film *Escape from LA*, which opens in Britain on Friday. It has been said that the character is an amalgam of real-life characteristics from both director and actor.

"I think that's true," Russell says. "John is by nature anti-authoritarian. I am by nature libertarian. Snake is both of those things. He can't stand authority but he has no regard for it because of one simple incorruptible belief: don't tread on me and I won't tread on you. And for an actor he's fun to play."

Fun is something which has been virtually eliminated from the early 21st-century America of the film, which satirises many of the obsessions of the present day, creating a world where illicit sex and religious nonconformity, along with smoking, eating red meat and wearing fur, are crimes as heinous as murder. As Russell says: "America is swamped by the idea of living more safely, living longer. The quality of life and the individual's desire don't seem to be what the world's about right now. I'd rather do what I want."

The Los Angeles of the film has been turned by a massive earthquake into an isolated island of anarchy and a dumping ground for the moral law-

breakers of this not-so-brave new world. Beverly Hills is a shum ruled by hoodlums, while one of the leading citizens is the Surgeon General, who kidnaps passers-by for spare parts to repair his botched facelift jobs.

Russell and Carpenter first talked about making a sequel to *Escape from New York*, built around an LA cut off by earthquake, back in 1983, two years after the original. "Then in 1994," Russell says, "the North Ridge earthquake happened, the riots over Rodney King, the mudslides, all that drive-by shooting. It became a city that was being increasingly defined by its violence and natural catastrophes. I told John, this place is more than ever perfect to escape from and to put Snake into."

Russell co-wrote the film with Carpenter and acted as co-producer with Debra Hill. But though this is the first time he has received those particular screen credits, it is not the first time he has fulfilled those tasks. On *Tombstone*, for example, he took an uncredited producing role. On his forthcoming film *Breakdown*, he worked with the

director Jonathan Mostow on the script and helped to get the movie produced.

For the past ten years Russell has been writing on the movies he has worked on, though not as much as on this. "Before, I always took a project that already existed and worked with the writer and the director. In the case of *Escape from LA*, because we were starting from scratch, we felt it was important that my involvement and commitment be displayed for the studios that we'd be trying to sell the project to. That was the only reason I took credit on this. But I don't care about credits. As far as I'm concerned the only thing that matters is what's on the screen. I don't care how it got there."

Although he is now 45, in the opening scenes of the new film Russell is able to wear the same costume he wore 15 years ago. But when he is asked whether he shares the American obsession with keeping fit, it seems to touch a nerve. "I don't find the people I know who work out are obsessed with it. But the media is obsessed with writing about it. All they can do is pigeonhole that person as an idiot, a blockhead who works out."

The button pressed here is the idea of pigeonholing, which is anathema to him. He reacts similarly when talking



Kurt Russell — "The quality of life and the individual's desire don't seem to be what the world's about right now"

about the way Hollywood likes to categorise an actor. "They like to find specifically what you do, then they can promote it. It's more difficult for them to take an actor like me who is at heart a character actor. There's no persona they can promote. In the past three years they've been far more comfortable in trying to promote me as an action actor, when in fact what I did in *Executive Decision* was play the guy who was not the action man. It doesn't make any difference to me because I'm fortunate enough to be able to

keep on going, enjoying myself and getting paid lots of money." Russell, son of the baseball player-turned-actor Bing Russell, has been acting since he was nine years old. An Emmy-nominated title performance in John Carpenter's television film *Elvis* brought the adult Russell to public attention and also marked the beginning of a friendship and professional collaboration which has embraced five films and 17 years. The other important long-term relationship with which Russell is associated is his personal partnership with the

actress Goldie Hawn, which has survived for nearly 14 years. Although they have never married, they have one of the most stable partnerships in the movie world. "The social prerequisite has

no value to me," Russell says. "I enjoy my life with Goldie as it is. I just think that sometimes there are people who meet, who are destined to love each other forever. I feel that's the way Goldie and I are."

Britain's top critics on the top new shows:
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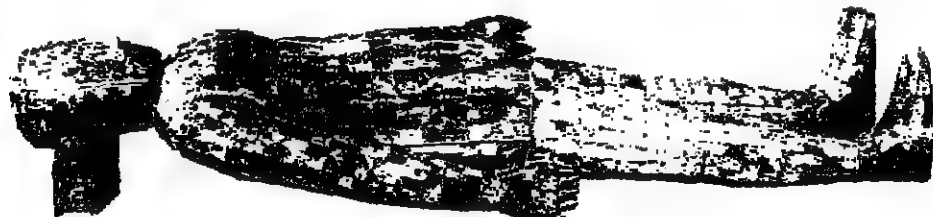
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MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA



Richard Cork continues his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent Mysteries of Ancient China show

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● Mysteries of Ancient China, sponsored by The Times, continues at the British Museum to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 071-420 0000

TOMORROW: A bronze and ceramic money tree

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Night's Dream



Britten

Matthew Parris



■ If consciousness is entirely subjective, some popular questions about it are meaningless

Last month, Nigel Hawkes, *The Times*'s science editor, organised a series of features on the mystery of consciousness. A recurring question was whether a computer might in time achieve this. It was significant that none of the contributing writers — doubters or believers in the possible consciousness of machines — could cite any behaviour normally associated with consciousness which must always be beyond machines. All agree they could seem to be conscious.

I have been giving thought to this. I think the reasons we might deny that an apparently conscious machine really is so are also reasons to deny that other people are conscious.

If I could make a machine able both to speak and to write and "teach" it to use the word "I", would you say the machine possessed a sense of personal identity? Perhaps not. And if I taught it how and when to use the words "feel" and "think" and taught it to reply "yes" to the question "Are you conscious?", would you say that it was conscious?

If it learnt to preface probable statements with the words "I think", would you accept that it was thinking? And if during the time-lapses in which the machine is processing, it were to declare "Let me think," might you then allow that this was what it was doing?

Perhaps not; so imagine I were to teach it a more sophisticated skill. Asked "What do you mean when you say 'feel' or 'think' or by 'conscious of your own identity'?", my machine could be programmed to conduct an extensive wordsearch and reply by offering synonyms for these terms. So, after saying "Give me a while to think" and a pause, it might eventually reply "Well, the best I can do is offer some of the other expressions people use to describe consciousness — such as 'sentience', 'perceive' and 'know'. You ask what I 'mean', but one cannot do more, you know, than say the same thing in different words. There's no way I can invite you to share my own consciousness."

"Like you I do feel, I do think, I am conscious. You will just have to take my word for that. I talk and behave like you, don't I? What more can you ever know? Will you now, reader, accept that this machine is conscious?"

Well, why not? My parents have already made such a machine. They begat me. By instruction and (more importantly) by example, they taught their machine to respond as described above. Because the way that their machine is made — we call it reproduction — introduces differences from the originals, and because the pro-

gramming was quite haphazard and quite outside their control, the machine is not its makers' clone or slave, and now operates independently. But in essentials of behaviour, it resembles them.

And will you now recognise that this human machine is conscious? You will? But what proof have I offered that could not be offered by a computer, when we make them sophisticated enough?

None. Indeed no proof can ever be offered, by either man or machine. As Roger Scruton hinted in Nigel Hawkes's series, no proof of consciousness can be forthcoming from any mechanism — animal, mineral or vegetable — except to itself. We know how we feel (and that we feel) but all we can ever know of another is that it speaks and behaves as we do, and that we are conscious. The rest is speculation.

It might all be an amazing touchy-feely hologram show organised by some deceiving creator: a divine joke. Or we might be the creators; my own consciousness is all I can ever know, and this is true by definition. It is a tautology to observe that only I experience what I experience.

The whole of the fascinating *Times* discussion about consciousness must therefore be relegated to the status of a subsidiary question. There can be no point in asking whether a machine might be conscious until we are satisfied that if it were this could be demonstrated. But as I have shown, it could not be. It could only be demonstrated that a machine is behaving as though conscious.

Far from devising a way to establish whether a computer could attain human consciousness, we cannot even establish that other human beings have. We never will. Since the question "Can one know that anything beyond oneself is conscious?" has failed, the subsidiary question, "Can a machine achieve consciousness?", fails before it is posed.

That bit is easy. It adds nothing to Berkeley and Descartes. Where I come unstuck is with one little phrase that I used earlier. It is a tautology, I observed, to say I cannot experience an experience which is not mine.

But tautologies tell us nothing except the definition of words; yet when I say I do not know whether you experience, I believe myself to be saying something significant. My own argument, however, points to the opposite: that all statements about the experience of others are meaningless.

I cannot resolve this. I am getting out of my depth and must turn back to shore. My ducks need feeding.

Which politician can say his policies would not kill jobs and kill democracy? John Redwood can

Deflate the big idea, not our economies

David Frost is a grand old television survivor. More than 30 years after his first appearances on *That Was The Week That Was*, he has made Sunday morning's *Breakfast with Frost* the political television show that no commentator can afford to miss. Yesterday he had a clip from his own interview with Norma Major, which showed that she is indeed a Tory asset, sensible, likeable, thoroughly sympathetic. The main interview was with John Redwood, following up Redwood's Amsterdam speech on Friday, in which he criticised the European policies of the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl.

This was by any standards a good interview. John Redwood has become a relaxed television performer. Partly because he is out of office and can freely say what he thinks, and partly because of his intelligence — he was a Fellow of All Souls — his arguments are clearer and therefore more forceful than those of most leading politicians. As a personal performance this interview compared favourably with Frost's interviews with John Major and Tony Blair. John Redwood may never lead a British party — that is always a matter of luck — but to judge by this performance he is of leadership quality.

The importance of the Amsterdam speech and the Frost interview, however, lies more in the argument than in the person. In Amsterdam John Redwood described Chancellor Kohl as the "architect of misery" in Europe. "It is he who insists that Europe sticks to its preposterous timetable for economic, monetary and then political union," in his Frost interview, Redwood referred to the high levels of unemployment in Europe, a quarter of the Spanish workforce, an eighth in France and Italy, a tenth in Germany; he pointed out that the preparations for a single currency were deflating Europe's

high-unemployment economy still further, and could be expected to continue to do so. In Amsterdam he had attacked Kohl's policies of high exchange rates and, until recently, high interest rates, throttling the productive potential of the economies, closing factories and lengthening dole queues. In talking to Frost, he argued that the people of Europe care much more about jobs and the realities of their own lives than about the arcane structures of the European Union. That must be true.

Unemployment is now the central European issue, and the single currency programme is making it much worse. This programme depends on Chancellor Kohl. Without him, and his dangerous sense of destiny, the single currency project would vanish overnight. Of course it is supported by subsidiary characters in Germany and elsewhere, but without Kohl it would not be happening. It has already produced the European unemployment which John Redwood describes. Britain has the lowest unemployment of a major European country precisely because we were forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism, and therefore have an internationally competitive exchange rate. If we had been able to stay in — which both the Government and the Opposition wanted to do — we would have at least another million unemployed. If the single currency comes into being, then the prospect is that unemployment in Europe will

continue to rise, and it will rise in Britain if we join.

The European Central Bank — a piece of arcane machinery if ever there was one — will have absolute power over European interest-rate and exchange-rate policies, and considerable power over national budgets. This is an appointed body, which cannot be turned out in any election, national or European. It is a bureaucratic dictatorship. It has no responsibility to maintain high employment, but an overriding respon-

William Rees-Mogg

sibility to maintain stable prices, whatever suffering that may cause. The single currency means two things. In political terms, it takes economic policy away from our elected national Parliament and hands it over to unelected European officials. In economic terms, it starts from the present high level of European unemployment, will continue to deflate through the convergence process, and will then deflate further when it is fully established. It will kill democracy and kill jobs.

On Friday the Bundesrat passed an austerity programme to cut £30 billion off next year's budget deficit in

Germany. The purpose is to reduce the deficit to the 3 per cent level allowed by the Maastricht criteria. This is a deflationary package, and it may not reduce the deficit by as much as is hoped. It will certainly tend to increase unemployment. With four million Germans already out of work, the dole has been cut, job promotion programmes have been cut, and retirement ages are being raised, from 63 to 65 for men, and from 60 to 65 for women. These retirement changes will be phased, but these are all measures calculated to raise the level of unemployment. At this notable victory over the jobs of the German people, Chancellor Kohl slapped his thighs with delight, each hearty slap putting 10,000 more Germans on the dole.

Unemployment is not the only political problem in Europe: widespread corruption, as in Belgium, anger against immigrants, as in France, and regional claims to independence, as in northern Italy, are all symptoms of a profound political disturbance. Yet the immigration and regional issues reflect the failure of European competitiveness. Unless the major European countries can reverse the rise in unemployment, they have little chance of solving their other problems.

What are the political implications in Britain? There is no doubt that Conservative policy on the single currency is somewhat more satisfactory than Labour's. The Conservatives are

at least committed to a referendum if a Conservative Government in the next Parliament should want to join the single currency. The Labour Party is not. Yet both parties still have a gaping hole in their policies. Neither John Major nor Tony Blair will say whether he will join the single currency or not.

This is a contempt of the electorate. Do you want to abandon British democracy? Do you want another million unemployed? Tick the box for "yes", "no", or "maybe". The leaders of both the main parties would now tick the boxes for "maybe", while Paddy Ashdown would tick the boxes for "yes".

John Major himself does not want to join the single currency; as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he took us into the exchange-rate mechanism, and perhaps feels once bitten, twice shy. Yet he will not commit himself not to go into a single currency in the next Parliament, because he is afraid of losing Kenneth Clarke. If that is still his position when the general election comes, John Major will thoroughly deserve to lose it.

What about Tony Blair? He is an able man. He has done a decisive job of leadership in reforming the constitution and policies of the Labour Party, much for the better. Yet he is less than forthcoming towards the single currency. He has not yet even promised a referendum, but is still trying to fudge both the currency and referendum issues. That is not tolerable. If he wants to take Britain into a single currency, he should say so. All the arguments are already known; there are no secret facts to be discovered after the election. Does he want to liquidate British democracy? Does he want another million unemployed? Will he be Helmut Kohl's pink puppet? At the general election the politicians will be asking us, as electors, to trust them. We cannot trust them if they will not trust us.

A party for its members

Tony Blair's Labour Party is not going to be pushed around in government by the unions, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair is trying to create a new party out of an old one, and the strains of the transformation have begun to show. The past week's problems have really been about a culture clash between the enthusiasts for "new" Labour, such as Stephen Byers and Kim Howells, speaking out of turn or at least too candidly, and the stalwarts of "old" Labour, bemused by the pace of change.

There is no hidden agenda. Mr Blair has always been open about his desire to turn Labour into a new party. Look at *New Britain: My Vision of a Young Country*, his just published collection of speeches. He is scathing about the inadequacies of the traditional structure based on the trade union block vote and the undue weight given to producer interests. Labour leftwingers are wrong to argue that Mr Blair is trying to turn the party into an SDP Mark II. Of course, he is a social democrat at heart, but he has no desire to repeat the SDP experience. The SDP failed. What Mr Blair wants is to create a successful broadly based centre-left party. That means building on the existing Labour foundations, not starting afresh on a greenfield site.

The main emphasis has been on increasing the number of members and giving them a bigger role. The decisive event of his leadership so far has been the rewriting of Clause Four, when he called the bluff of union leaders and mobilised individual party and union members in favour of change. He hopes to repeat this next month when the party's pre-manifesto is put to a ballot of party members.

Union leaders dislike this threat to their power and regard Mr Blair as unsympathetic — and they are right. He is impatient over what he regards as "daft" resolutions adopted by

union conferences demanding commitments which Labour cannot give. And he has stressed that business and the unions will be treated alike by a Labour government.

The unions are already less dominant within the party. Their relative share of conference votes has fallen from a peak of 90 per cent to 50 per cent now. While they see that as the minimum possible, the Blairites do not. And union sponsorship has been changed so that the money goes to local parties and not even nominally to Labour MPs, who anyway never benefited personally.

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown also want to signal now that the arrival of a Labour government would not mean granting the demands of the unions, as happened in 1974-75. Admittedly, Labour proposals would increase union rights over, for example, recognition, but most of the reforms since 1979 would remain. Mr Brown has warned public-sector unions against expecting big catch-up pay rises; a continued squeeze is more likely. A Blair government might respond to an outbreak of strikes by seeking support in a ballot of party members — although "back me or sack me" exercises can go wrong.

But a formal divorce, severing the links between the unions and Labour, is unlikely over the next few years. Such a complete break would be too much for many Labour MPs and activists, most of whom are also union members. The Blairites see benefits in only gradual separation, not least because the unions still contribute more than a half of the party's funds. That is, admittedly, down from more than three-quarters a decade ago, but the party cannot count on any shortfall being permanently offset by the current wave of wealthy individual donors or by the sharp rise in individual membership.



Tony Blair flanked by John Monks and Brendan Barber of the TUC

Both are to some extent temporary features associated with the popularity of Mr Blair.

A precondition for an institutional break from the unions is finding a secure alternative source of finance. Labour has said it wants to examine state funding. This already exists in

the form of limited help for the work of opposition parties in Parliament and in the law that requires the broadcasters to provide "free" airtime for the parties. But any extension to provide money for parties' election campaigning — as in Germany, France and Italy — would be highly

unpopular and would risk creating a new form of dependency, by making the parties more centralised and less inclined to seek individual members. A more acceptable alternative might be to make small donations or individual subscriptions to parties tax-deductible, as in Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

If the union link declines further, a strong individual membership is essential, not just financially but also in terms of organisation. Even in America, where the unions are historically weak, and do not have a formal voting role in the Democratic Party, they provide many of its local activists and much of the money and effort in election campaigns, as was seen at the Chicago convention last month. In France, the Socialists have traditionally had weak links with the unions and the party has been prone to factionalism and ideological divisions.

In Britain, the unions were the ballast that prevented Labour from being taken over by ideological zealots in the 1930s and the 1950s, which why its past right-of-centre leaders from Hugh Gaitskell to John Smith defended their role. But Mr Blair questions the right of union leaders to speak on behalf of their much smaller numbers of members now, when class and political identities are looser. His reforms have also sidelined activist zealots as much as unions. A lot, however, rides on the good sense of individual party members, as well as their pockets.

Distancing Labour from the unions may be good electoral politics, even though the latest rows give the impression of disunity and a lack of direction, and may produce a union backlash at the party conference in a fortnight's time. Mr Blair will seek to regain the initiative in a speech this evening by highlighting how a Labour government would seek to change Britain. In the long term, however, the real question is whether the "new" party he is creating will have deep and strong enough roots — whether it is possible to have a centre-left party not based on class and union interests.

Regal style

STEP ASIDE, Diana, Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York. In the fashion war that is the modern Royal Family, New York has picked its winner: the Queen.

Kenar, a Manhattan fashion house, has launched a poster and newspaper advertising campaign for its autumn range which features the supermodel Linda Evangelista arm-wrestling with a lookalike of Her Majesty in what seems to be a London pub.

According to Kenar, the Queen was chosen because "she is extremely cool right now with the

young." "She is an icon," says Charles De Caro, the "creative brain" behind the advertisement. "The spare sensibility of her dress sense is very much in fashion at the moment."

Indeed, the advertisement's "Queen" (who is in fact a professional lookalike called Mary Reynolds) is shown wearing a string of pearls, a tiara and just the sort of modest jacket and wrap-over skirt often sniggered at by the more knowing fashion types when worn by the real Queen.

"The Queen has always been

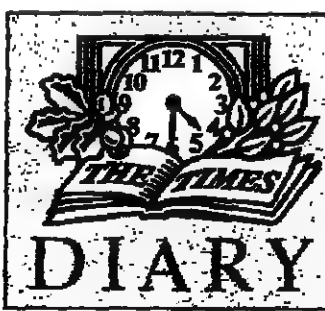
cool," says Mr De Caro, clearly intent on restoring Her Majesty to her rightful place in fashion's pantheon. "Let's face it, there is only one Queen."

Shake up

GRITTY realism is the aim behind plans to renovate one of Britain's most popular tourist attractions: the house where William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. Drawing on the past 30 years of research into 16th-century middle-class urban life, the team is to be redecorate the house to show more precisely the conditions in which Shakespeare grew up.

The workshop where John Shakespeare, the poet's father, made gloves is to be recreated for the first time, and materials and fabrics in tune with the times will be added. "There will be some concessions to modernity," says the birthplace's director, Roger Pringle. "But we will not abandon heating and we will certainly not be putting rushes down on the floor."

● Cloak and dagger stuff from the Conservatives' campaign strategists. Two committees oversee campaign planning: Media Strategy (MSI) which includes Central Office staff, and MS2 which includes advertising and PR merce-



naries from outside. There is no MS2. The reason? To keep the opposition guessing.

No sparkle

THOUGH times are good for Norman Lamont, he is finding it difficult to impart his bonhomie to the residents of Harrogate, his prospective constituency.

In an upmarket drinking hole in town the other day, he strode up to a friend celebrating his birthday and said: "Come on, have a glass of champagne, on me."

"I'll just have a pint of Fosters," said the friend.

"Go on, make it champagne," urged Lamont.

The conversation continued in this vein until eventually Lamont conceded, bought his friend his modest pint and addressed the bar:

"The trouble with some people," he said, "is that they don't know how to be happy."

Tell no tales

LORD RUNCIE, buffeted by the controversy about Humphrey Carpenter's biography, might care to reflect on Cardinal Manning. A Victorian of seemingly adamantine virtue, Manning also tangled with a troublesome biographer.

Edmund Sheridan Purcell approached Manning, offering to write his memoirs. Manning

agreed and showed Purcell portions of his private diary. Manning then did what Runcie says he wishes he had done: he died.

Purcell moved swiftly, making off with a carriage-load of Manning's private documents from under the noses of the Cardinal's staff. Purcell's subsequent hatchet-job was described by Cardinal Vaughan as "almost a crime". Runcie should count himself lucky.

● Canada's debut as a venue for international cricket has been delayed. India and Pakistan, who can no longer play one another at home because of crowd trouble, were set to play in Toronto. But despite the precaution of taking their match to the other side of the world, one factor remained unchangeable: rain washed out the whole of the first day's play.

No go logo

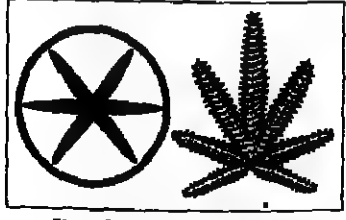
THERE WAS but one blot on the plans of Umberto Bossi yesterday as he proclaimed the creation of Padania in northern Italy: the symbol of his new country looks like a

cannabis leaf.

This is not the sort of thing to concern Bossi, a chest-thumping sort addicted to cigarettes and the sound of his own voice. Others, however, are laughing, including

certain senators who have said that the Northern League, a superficially Conservative, modish group, is in fact a secret hippy cove.

A leaf motif similar to that of Bossi's image-conscious party is used by a radical group lobbying for the legalisation of drugs.



Bossi, symbol and leaf

certain senators who have said that the Northern League, a superficially Conservative, modish group, is in fact a secret hippy cove.

A leaf motif similar to that of Bossi's image-conscious party is used by a radical group lobbying for the legalisation of drugs.

P.H.S

مكتبة الأصل



WHAT'S IN A NAME

Socialism is a part of Labour's present as well as its past

When Kim Howells, the Labour Party's trade and industry spokesman, declared yesterday that "the word socialism should be humanely phased out", he must have expected, and indeed relished, the torrent of abuse he received from the party's old guard. But this row is more interesting than the usual Labour storm in a teacup. For changing attitudes to the word "socialism" reveal a great deal about the changing face of the Labour Party — and about whether these superficial changes reflect what is really going on in the party's soul.

Socialism is a word with a long and complex history, which closely parallels the history of Labour's beliefs. From its earliest days, socialism has been defined as much by what it opposed as by what it promised. In the early 19th century socialism was the doctrine of common ownership of property — and therefore the antithesis of capitalism, a word which was also coined at about the same time. But in Britain it soon acquired an alternative, less threatening meaning.

The Fabian socialists were reformist, not revolutionaries. They were dedicated to making capitalism more equal and more democratic, rather than sweeping it away. Many of the pre-war Fabians shared with the revolutionaries their attachment to widespread nationalisation. However, they saw state ownership not as an end in itself but as a means to social justice and (ironically) to greater economic efficiency.

In the 1950s and 1960s, when the Labour Party went through an internal upheaval easily equal to the one now imposed by Tony Blair, the struggle was between two definitions of socialism. The old guard believed that the essence of socialism was public ownership and nationalisation. The "revisionists", led by Anthony Crosland, argued that socialism was not about property ownership but about equality and justice. Socialism could be achieved by leaving the

economy in capitalist hands, but then redistributing the wealth and income it produced. This revisionist socialism defined itself in opposition not to capitalism and private ownership but to inequality and injustice. The revisionists may have been "moderates" on nationalisation, but they were firebrands when it came to equality. They advocated punitive tax rates and were zealous for comprehensive education and council housing.

Today egalitarian socialism is often derided as "the politics of envy", partly because of its poor economic and social record and partly because of the growth of middle-class aspirations. The essence of Mr Blair's political project, therefore, has been to define a new ideology that would make Labour fit for the modern world. He has tried to do this by attaching yet another meaning to that old word socialism.

Mr Blair refers to "socialism" as a doctrine which recognises that man is a social animal and stresses the community, and not just the individual, as the main unit of politics. This "socialism" is opposed not to capitalism or to inequality but to the narrow individualism which Mr Blair sees as characterising the Thatcher decades. The trouble with this ideology is twofold.

First, Mr Blair's socialism is so commonplace as to be almost meaningless. The sense of community — from the local neighbourhood to the nation state — play a central part in Conservative traditions. And it is not clear whether Mr Blair has anything distinctive to add to these values. The second problem for Mr Blair is that many of his troops have not yet moved from the second to the third phase of the Labour Party's reforms. Mr Blair may believe equality and redistribution are not essential to his "socialism". But unless he can be more specific about his new ideology, he will have trouble winning the confidence of his party or of the electorate at large.

INSTABILITY PACT

Every step towards EMU makes the destination less attractive

European finance ministers are due to take another giant step towards the *terra incognita* of monetary union this Friday. They are to meet in Dublin to approve an outline agreement on financial penalties for governments and parliaments which join the single currency and then fail to stick to the Maastricht treaty's budgetary requirements. The deal quietly cobbled together in Brussels seems to have met the long standing German demand for a permanent "stability pact" which would impose large fines on EMU governments that borrow above the limits set at Maastricht. At the same time it has apparently overcome French objections to a further erosion of national sovereignty.

The Germans, it seems, have agreed to reduce slightly the scale of the proposed sanctions and, more importantly, to introduce an element of political discretion into the levying of fines. In return for this small gesture of pragmatism, the other nations have conceded the huge principle that the European Council would become the final arbiter of national policies on taxes and public spending.

Looking at the way the stability pact would operate in practice as opposed to the principles on which it is based, the French calculation is easier to understand, if not to endorse. The tough stability pact demanded last year by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, is now riddled with loopholes. Instead of fines being levied automatically when a country exceeds the deficit limits, the government in question will now be given nine months to mend its ways. It will then escape punishment if its plans for fiscal retrenchment are "credible" or its deficits are "temporary and exceptional". In other words, the new fiscal sanctions will become just another item for horse-trading in the great Brussels bazaar.

The stability pact is also necessary to persuade the German people that they can safely give up the mark. EMU can only go ahead in 1999 if the deficit criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty are fudged: Either the targets will simply be overridden, or the deficits reported for 1997 will be shamelessly massaged. A recent decision by the French Government to include a one-off payment worth nearly £5 billion from France Telecom in its 1997 budget will doubtless be the precursor of many such accountancy tricks. In the face of such trickery, the stability pact may counteract the impression that the euro will be a "soft" currency in the long run.

But even if the stability pact does help to dupe the German public into accepting EMU, it can only increase the long-range political perils attending the whole project. If, as the French doubtless hope, the stability pact turns out to be nothing more than a piece of paper, it can only increase the danger of a backlash when the German public and the financial markets realise they have been duped. If, on the other hand, the stability pact turns into a permanent encroachment on national economic sovereignty, the risks of political conflict among the governments and peoples of Europe will be magnified.

In practice, the stability pact is likely to disappoint the Germans and anger the other countries at the same time. With every step that Europe takes towards monetary union, the destination looks less attractive and Britain seems wiser to be left behind.

PASS GO, COLLECT 200

Popular games must appeal to basic human instincts

At lunchtime today the new world Monopoly champion will emerge at Monte Carlo, having bankrupted the national champions from 35 countries. In the rest of the world, the Middle East trembles on the brink. Bishops may have gone absent without leave, and the Prime Minister has been visiting the Queen (a keen Monopoly-player) at Balmoral. But for the wide little world of fantasy property-dealers and game-players, the most exciting event of the weekend has been the world Monopoly championships.

And this is odd, because for those unaddicted to or grown out of its attractions, the boring old board game could just as well be renamed Monotony. For Monopoly, like monogamy, leaves a lot to be desired. Its property values are obsolete. Few would have fancied a hotel in Islington when the game was invented. But Islington has become the home of would-be Prime Ministers. While Oxford Street and Piccadilly, once deemed highly desirable properties, have become tawdry honey-pots on the tourist trail. The world championships are using the American version of the game as the end of the Depression. And 60 years on there are many more desirable pieces of real estate in the United States, and probably even in Atlantic City, than Park Place and Board Walk.

The public utilities of water and electricity are the least profitable squares on the board to land on. When offered at auction, they often attract no bidders. But in the brave new world off the board, being chairman of

a privatised public utility or a railway station has become a licence to print money, pension rights, share options and the title of fat cat. The phrase "Monopoly money" has escaped from the box of "Uncle Pennybags", the Monopoly man, into the fantasy world of directors' salary packages. Inflation has so increased the price of everything that there is no room on a card or a square of the board to print the value of winning a beauty contest or making repairs to all one's hotels.

The notion of free parking only a die's throw from the Strand is a bad joke. Though going to jail, going directly to jail, as an escape from a rack-renting landlord still holds its attractions. And in getting out of jail early for a small fee or holding the right card, life has been imitating art.

Yet there is no denying the lasting appeal of this most popular of patented board games. It is published in 25 languages as well as Braille, and its crude capitalism is unsurprisingly popular in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Substituting little portable telephones or model moderns for its tokens of metal top hat and shoe would destroy the antique charm.

For the funny game provides the thrills of venture capitalism without the risks or the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It appeals to basic instincts of acquisitiveness and competition, without income tax returns or harming those who lose. A man is never more harmlessly employed than when making Monopoly money. Provided he does not die of boredom.

سكنا من الاصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Labour, trade unions and the perils of job insecurity

From Mr Frank Allauin

Sir, Widespread fears have been aroused by suggestions (reports, September 13 and 14; leading articles, September 12 and 14) that the umbilical cord between Labour and the unions may be cut. It would be fatal to both. They represent, politically and industrially, the interests of those who work for their living.

The major effect of such a split could defeat Labour's chances of winning the next election. For example, the most popular of the TUC demands is for a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour. It is not only fair: it will also bring hope to the five million who earn less.

The overwhelming backing of TUC delegates showed that they understand what it means. It was the unions' impetus that first evolved and then promoted the demand. Their feet are on the ground.

What is especially regrettable about any suggestion by Mr Stephen Byers, Shadow Employment Minister, of a break between Labour and the unions is that it could not have been made by a parliamentary spokesman without the approval of higher figures in the party.

Ours is a trade union and Labour movement. And long may it stay so.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAUIN
(Labour MP for Salford East, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester,
September 15.

From Mr Michael Foster

Sir, I find it difficult to understand how the cordial reception of Tony Blair at the TUC is interpreted on your front page of September 12 as a "snub" and the decisions on a £4.26 minimum wage and rejection of a postal pay ballot as a "double rebuff".

The TUC did not "defy" Mr Blair on a minimum wage. As he made clear, the unions have different responsibilities from the Labour Party.

It would be very unwise if the TUC, as a potential participant in Labour's intended low-pay commission, should in advance suggest a lower figure than the £4.26 which they have proposed, but one has to start somewhere.

School league tables

From the National Director of the Independent Schools Information Service

Sir, Jeremy Baker's equation of independent schools' success at university entrance and "the impact of money" (letter, September 5) is too simplistic.

A great many distinguished independent schools which appear in the league tables have annual fees within a few hundred pounds of the average cost of a sixth-form place in the maintained sector, which is at least £3,600.

Since the latter cost does not include items which must be covered by independent school fees — such as capital expenditure and administration — we must conclude that independent schools' academic pre-eminence is attributable to factors other than throwing "three times more money" at their pupils.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. WOODHEAD,
National Director,
Independent Schools Information Service,
56 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
September 6.

Aksumite obelisk

From Mr Stephen Bell

Sir, Professor Richard Pankhurst (letter, September 7) draws attention to Italy's unfulfilled commitment, dating from her 1947 peace treaty with the United Nations, to restore to Ethiopia the 2,000-year-old Aksumite obelisk within 18 months of the signing of that treaty.

There is an additional and urgent dimension to this long overdue legal obligation. The 24-metre-high granite obelisk, re-erected in 1937 in the Piazza di Porta Capena in Rome on the 15th anniversary of Mussolini's seizure of power, is now showing the effects of serious pollution from traffic fumes. Being carved on all four sides, the obelisk is, incidentally, a particularly fine example of the genre.

The cost of its transport back to Ethiopia and the frailty of its condition have been deployed by Italian officials as arguments against its restitution. Earlier this year, however, Dr Vincenzo Francaviglia of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (National Council of Research) published his conclusion that it could be rededicated without difficulty into the five pieces into which it had broken when the Falasha Queen Gudat sacked Aksum in the 10th century.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BELL,
2 The Row,
Spafford, Newark, Nottinghamshire,
September 8.

Sport letters, page 36

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

I suggest, therefore, that it is a failure to understand the dynamics between the Labour Party and the unions that has caused you to detect a rift that does not exist.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL FOSTER
(Labour prospective candidate for Hastings and Rye),
202 Wishing Tree Road,
St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex,
September 12.

From Mr G. M. B. Nixon

Sir, The proposal for a minimum wage is being presented as a pay increase for employees below the proposed minimum. However, if workers are paid, for example, £1 an hour more to bring them up to the minimum, it follows that a similar increase will be demanded by others above the minimum.

We are being led to believe that the trade unions will ignore the opportunity to maintain their differential rates.

Yours sincerely,
G. M. B. NIXON,
Baytree,
Glen Auldryn, Ramsey, Isle of Man,
September 13.

Openness in politics

From Mr Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield (Labour)

Sir, Conflicting accounts of the real intentions of "new" Labour towards the trade unions highlight a much deeper problem. Across the whole political spectrum the public is being fed, every day, a diet of political news increasingly based upon anonymous briefings, leaks, nods and winks; and if these stories are then thought to be embarrassing, denials are furnished by other unnamed but supposedly authoritative sources.

In short, people are now being systematically misled and are rapidly coming to disbelieve everything that they hear and read. Even parliamentary candidates, in all parties, soon to fight a general election, may have no clear idea what the thinking of their own leaders really is on some important questions.

Conflict in Iraq

From Dr Anthony Flood, MC

Sir, In the mid 1970s, when I was in northern Iraq with Masoud Barzani's father, the fight was essentially with the Iraqi Army, which both bombed and shelled the Kurdish guerrillas during the daytime. At night the Shah's heavy artillery moved over the Iranian border to bombard the Iraqis, moving out of the Kurdish-held area before first light.

The Kurds are a displaced ethnic people used as political pawns by Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria, and they will necessarily turn to whichever country will help them, as they are turning now.

The factional disputes of the day serve only further to complicate their troubles.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY FLOOD,
The Orangery,
Aguill Castle, Brough, Cumbria,
September 13.

Flying in style

From Mr Anthony Jacks

Sir, Mr Bob Prescott's letter (September 9; see also letter September 11) reminds me that on September 3, 1939, aged 15, I flew home from Alexandria in the Imperial Airways C Class flying boat Corinna.

Air travel in those days was supremely comfortable: a mere 17 passengers, large leather armchairs with unlimited legroom and even pull-down bunks (although these were used only when we were moored on the water).

There was a bar at one end of the aircraft from which one collected drinks and a promenade deck from which to view the scene below. The aircraft proceeded at a leisurely 150 knots and at a few thousand feet of altitude, so there was ample time to take in the surrounding countryside.

We heard Chamberlain's declaration of war on a portable radio in the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens. We toured the Parthenon, deserted except

Animal insights

From Mr Simon Doughty

Sir, Peter Bennett may not be "barking up the wrong tree" in suggesting dogs can sense their owner's presence "in the air" (letter, September 12).

My parents have just returned from holiday to be told by my youngest brother that Scruffy, their ten-year-old poodle/terrier, had become very active at about the time they took off, homeward bound, from Brisbane. She kept up this activity, on and off, for the next day, with regular visits to the front door.

Her senses, if we are to believe recently published theories (report, September 5), were eventually rewarded at about 6.15 this morning, although Scruffy appeared to be more relieved than excited — 25 hours is a long time when you "think" that your owners are on their way home.

As in Mr Bennett's story, the aircraft's route took it close to my par-

ents' house, but that was at Sarn and Scruffy was fast asleep.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON DOUGHTY,
18 Gratton Drive,
Windsor, Berkshire,
September 12.

From Mr Alan Hadfield

Sir, My parents' cat, Katie, used to spend much of her week as a cool and dignified animal, but not on Thursdays, when from early in the morning she would mill around the house and front garden and become quite agitated until the fish man from Fleetwood made his call.

She would ride up and down the cul-de-sac on top of his van and could later be seen attempting to eat steaming hot fish, no doubt regretting that she was not equipped to blow on it.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN HADFIELD,
12 Chipstead Close, Maidstone, Kent,
September 12.

These practices, combined with the emphasis on highly personalised and destructive campaigning, represent a direct threat to democracy which should allow the electors to make a clear choice between clear alternatives presented positively.

The most immediate victims of all this are the journalists who are bullied and threatened by the spin-doctors in to publishing what they have been told to publish.

All elected people should say what they have to say, on the record, and journalists should be far less willing to listen to those who refuse to be named.

This is not an argument between the Left and Right but a plea for greater integrity in politics — and in the reporting of politics.

Yours etc,
TONY BENN,
House of Commons,
September 15.

Publication of Scrolls

From Mr D. A. Parker

Sir, Your leading article on the cultural importance of the Linear B decipherment ("Man and minotaur", September 6) sounded a resonance with another long outstanding but politically more ignominious decipherment and interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Why has it taken over 30 years to publish extracts of the Dead Sea Scrolls, in a known and translatable script, while the Linear B tablets were expeditiously published from a previously untranslatable format?

Surely the full and unencumbered publication of the Scrolls can only serve to add to our cultural understanding of the pre-Christian era and the roots of Judaic and Christian religions.

Yours sincerely,
DARRYL A. PARKER,
20 Sunnyfield, Mill Hill, NW7,
September 9.

for our party. It was a beautiful late summer's day and the atmosphere was crystal clear.

The following day we landed in Brindisi and were surrounded by armed Blackshirts. Eventually we were allowed to proceed and flew through (not over) the Appennines. There was a strong head-wind and it was a little disconcerting to discover that we were being passed by cars on the road below.

It took us three days to get home with numerous diversions. During this time our main worry was not being shot down by enemy aircraft or interned in an unfriendly country. What concerned us most of all was the altimeter at the end of the cabin over the bar. This was the size of a station clock and when we were moored safely on the water indicated that we were still 500 feet above sea level.

Yours sincerely,
A. R. JACKS,
2 Rossett Beck,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire,
September 11.

ent's house, but that was at Sarn and Scruffy was fast asleep.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON DOUGHTY,
18 Gratton Drive,
Windsor, Berkshire,
September 12.

From Mr Alan Hadfield

Sir, My parents' cat, Katie, used to spend much of her week as a cool and dignified animal, but not on Thursdays, when from early in the morning she would mill around the house and front garden and become quite agitated until the fish man from Fleetwood made his call.

She would ride up and down the cul-de-sac on top of his van and could later be seen attempting to eat steaming hot fish, no doubt regretting that she was not equipped to blow on it.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN HADFIELD,
12 Chipstead Close, Maidstone, Kent,
September 12.

Russia looks back for a way forward

From Dr A. Lentini

Sir, The proposed reburial in St Petersburg of the bones of Tsar Nicholas II (report, September 13), and the political uncertainty in Russia arising from the illness of President Yeltsin (reports and leading articles, September 5 and 6), are not isolated phenomena but involve wider projects under serious consideration in Russia.

I recently participated in a major historical conference at St Petersburg and in informal discussions in Moscow with the editorial staff of a historical review enjoying the President's personal patronage. At both I found the possibility of monarchical restoration being mooted in the highest circles as a solution to the problems of instability, succession crises and the fate of Russian democracy.

Russia's historical past, always seen there in relation to its present and future, is being reviewed in a desperate effort to guarantee the present reforms and to prevent a return to authoritarianism and repression.

Constitutional monarchy is seen by many as capable of providing a much-needed focus of stability, continuity and legitimacy. A decision to lay to rest the last of the Romanovs would be a clear indication of official favour towards the idea of monarchy.

Meanwhile, a flood of scholarly and popular books on Russia's Romanov past, particularly her 18th-century past, is intended to sound out public opinion on a solution that could be presented as combining historical tradition with a guarantee of the freedoms and openness, genuine but precarious, now in evidence.

Yours faithfully,
A. LENTINI,
57 Maids Causeway, Cambridge,
September 13.

Arts funding

From the Chairman of the National Federation of Music Societies

Sir, It is encouraging that a debate is taking place on arts funding. I was somewhat depressed, however, by aspects of Richard Ponsbury's letter (September 6) in which he concentrated wholly on the difficulties being faced by some (professional) companies without mentioning once the audiences they serve or the potential audiences not currently excited by what is on offer. Surely any debate about the arts has to start from the needs of the audiences in communities throughout the UK.

I was also puzzled by his view that any additional funding should be reserved initially for professionals, as if there were two entirely separate sectors. The 1,700 amateur music societies which make up our membership spend, between them, around £11 million each year on the engagement of professionals: indeed, many rely on our members for their living.

It is surely time to sweep away the notion that professional and amateur musicians are in competition for funding: we can and should co-operate to make full use of the exciting possibilities offered by the lottery.

Yours sincerely,
RODERICK J. WYLIE,
Chairman, National Federation of Music Societies,
Francis House, Francis Street, SW1,
September 9.

Digital hymnal

From Mrs S. Kenrick

Sir, I am an invisible woman (church organist) and delighted that Mr Alan Millard (letter, September 12) recognises this fact.

One recent Sunday, so irritated by the mounting crescendo of gossip during my carefully chosen and much practised Bach prelude, I left my organ bench and addressed a startled congregation. I pointed out that as I had taken time and trouble to play this piece for them, they could at least have the courtesy to listen.

I am now known as the "organist with attitude". Can you have digital keypads with "attitude"?

Yours sincerely,
S. R. KENRICK,
Hickley Place, Little Comberton,
Pershore, Worcestershire,
September 13.

From Mr John B. Harris

Sir, The substitution of digital music for church organs will achieve balance between the harmonies, steady tempo and rhythm and a recognisable main line of melody when introducing and accompanying hymns.

Very few church and only some cathedral organists achieve this.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. HARRIS,
15 Chantwell House,
12 Ladbroke Terrace, W11,
September 12.

Punch drunk?

From Mr Roy Hodson

Sir, I was about to write to you this morning with the intelligence that this small household had already received three unsolicited copies of the newly revived humorous magazine *Punch* when two more arrived in the post.

Is this what is meant by going beyond a joke?

Yours sincerely,
ROY HODSON,
The Sail Loft,
Mulberry Quay, Falmouth, Cornwall,
September 14.

OBITUARIES

JULIET PROWSE

Juliet Prowse, actress and dancer, died of cancer in Los Angeles on September 14 aged 59. She was born in Bombay on September 25, 1936.

Juliet Prowse was a superb dancer and a fine actress and singer, whose misfortune it was to be born 20 years too late for the big Hollywood musical. Her legs, which bore just comparison to Betty Grable's, were still a marvel in middle age, as were her high-energy dance routines. Like Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, she could have complained with some justification that it was the pictures that had got small, not her talent. But complaining was never her style. She enjoyed every twist of her long career, and approached her professional injuries with brisk good humour. Her numerous love affairs, which included a brief engagement to Frank Sinatra, were a subject of fevered fascination for the British tabloid press.

Prowse appeared in few major Hollywood films, perhaps because actresses like Shirley MacLaine beat her to those rare parts written for women of her wide talents in the 1960s. *Can Can*, on the set of which she met Frank Sinatra, was an exception. The film promised to make her a star, not only because of her excellent performance, but because Nikita Khrushchev, who was visiting America, had been invited onto the set. He appeared in good spirits while he watched Prowse

high-kicking through the dance routine, but afterwards decided that it would be politic to express moral disapproval of this sort of American debauchery, and described Prowse as "lascivious, disgusting and immoral". Prowse, who admitted the dance was "not exactly Swan Lake", laughed off what she immediately recognised as propaganda. The following day her photograph appeared in every newspaper in America.

Prowse was born in Bombay where her father was the British manager for Westinghouse. He died when she was three and the family moved to South Africa, where Juliet studied dancing. She joined the Festival Ballet in Johannesburg at 14, and became known as their "baby ballerina". But a late growing spurt put paid to her classical career. Dancers tended to be shorter in those days — the other girls were typically 5ft 3in. At 5ft 7in, Prowse was beginning to dwarf some of the men, particularly when she was on point.

Switching to modern dance, she came to London at 17 and found work in the chorus line of *Kismet* and *Mother Goose*. Later she went to Paris, where she appeared in a topless dance club. As she was considered to be English, and therefore more modest than the French girls, the management told her she could keep her top on. Engagements in Madrid and Rome followed and it was there that she was spotted by Hermes Pan, the choreographer of *Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers*. Pan thought

her the best woman dancer he had ever seen. He was then working with Frank Sinatra and Shirley MacLaine on Cole Porter's *Can Can*, the film of the musical about a Parisian nightclub dancer in the 1890s who is sued for performing the illegal dance. Prowse was persuaded by Pan to join the cast and the film was released in 1960.

The publicity of Khrushchev's visit had made Prowse's elegant dancer's body, soft red hair and green eyes familiar to every American who read a newspaper. More intense publicity was to follow when it was leaked that, not only was she having an affair with Frank Sinatra but also with Elvis Presley, the star of her next film, *GI Blues* (also 1960), in which she played a cabaret dancer to his guitar-playing army gunner. At one point she was reputed to be seeing both of them at the same time.

Prowse thought Presley adorable, in those days before the "poor dear", as she referred to him, had problems. But the affair with Sinatra was the more serious, and led to a six-week engagement. In retrospect, she felt she had been as much flattered by, as in love with, him and was convinced the marriage would not have worked. Sinatra was notorious for a chauvinistic attitude towards his wives' careers — his marriages to Ava Gardner and (later) Mia Farrow founded on just that issue. "He wanted a 24-hour wife," Prowse said, and she wanted to carry on working.

More films followed in the 1960s: *The Second Time Around* (1961) with Debbie Reynolds; and *The Right Approach* (also 1961), with Frankie Vaughan. But by this time there were fewer musicals being made in Hollywood, and the wise option, which Prowse chose, was to concentrate on stage work. She starred in live shows in Las Vegas, and opened Caesar's Palace with a performance in *Sweet Charity* in 1966, which she also took to the Prince of Wales Theatre in London the following year. (Shirley MacLaine landed the film role in 1969.)

By now Prowse had cut her strawberry blonde hair into a fashionable urchin style and the British press showed no restraint in their descriptions of her beauty. In 1969 she briefly took over from Ginger Rogers in *Mame* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. That year, after more failed romances and engagements, she married the television actor John McCook. But that marriage, too, ended in divorce, after she had given birth to her only child, a son.



WING COMMANDER CLIVE BEADON

Wing Commander Clive Beadon, DFC, Second World War bomber pilot, died in hospital at Windsor on September 14 aged 77. He was born in India on April 15, 1919.

A MAN who never thought of himself as a hero, Clive Beadon was certainly not set in any conventional heroic mould. A gentle man, he always seemed, with his precise manner and eternally contemplative air, more like an academic from some university cloister than a bomber pilot. Indeed, he rarely mentioned that part of his life. Certainly no one who knew him after his retirement from the RAF would have guessed that he had once flown a burning bomber 1,000 miles rather than bale out and save his own skin.



Beadon with his second wife Jane at their wedding in 1965

Clive Vernon Beadon was the elder son of an Indian Army officer. He was educated at the Imperial Service College, Windsor, where he won a scholarship to Sandhurst. But he elected to go instead to the RAF College, Cranwell, where he trained to become a pilot.

In July 1939 he began his flying career in 101 Squadron, piloting Blenheims. After the outbreak of war, he served in 502 Squadron, Coastal Command, flying Whitleys. But it was after Japan's invasion of Burma in 1942 that the really remarkable part of his service career began.

In 1944 he was flying a Liberator bomber at very low level to attack Japanese supply trains on the Bangkok-Chiangmai railway, when his aircraft was hit by Japanese anti-aircraft fire. Its tailplane was very badly damaged and his rear gunner was killed. With the tail section of the aircraft an inferno of flames and smoke, Beadon had great difficulty in maintaining height. But as he was on the point of giving the order to jump, he discovered that the only parachute not destroyed by fire was his own.

The lives of his men therefore now depended on his skill as a pilot. In an astonishing feat of airmanship, he nursed the wounded and burning

transported stepdaughter, the Duchess, whom Jane Beadon had sued the previous year for libel, slander and conspiracy, winning £25,000 in damages. After his retirement from the RAF in 1966 Beadon, already the inventor of a jungle suit and the escape kit for airmen, became one of the world's leading authorities on dowsing, and Vice-President of the British Society of Dowsers. He possessed an uncanny ability — often using only a map, a pendulum and a small container of crude oil — to pinpoint the location of large deposits of oil in far-off places, such as Africa and South America. British Petroleum, sceptical of such claims, asked for a practical demonstration. They were so shaken by its accuracy that they told him: "This could be used for industrial espionage. Please keep away."

For his work as a dowser, Beadon invented a pendulum and what he termed a "spiral of tranquility", both acrylic models containing small gemstones of his own selection. He said the function of these was "to correct the Earth's unbalanced energy lines within their immediate vicinity". In February 1996 he appeared on the ITV programme *The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna*, and again using only a map, a pendulum, and a small deposit of oil, said he had located "between 50 and 75 million gallons of oil" in Windsor Great Park, south of the castle and just north of Frogmore House. But he estimated that to extract the oil could risk polluting most of London's water supply.

A Scot descended from the actress Sarah Siddons, his second wife Jane proved to be a woman of great strength of character and their marriage was a very happy one. Even after her confinement to a wheelchair through the onset of multiple sclerosis, she supported her husband bravely through his own battle against Raynaud's disease and a recent stroke. Clive Beadon had no children of his own by either of his marriages. He is survived by Jane and by his stepson from his first marriage.

Ray Coleman, former editor of *Melody Maker*, died of cancer on September 10 aged 59. He was born in Leicester on June 15, 1937.

Ray Coleman was beginning his journalistic career, the concept of the teenager had yet to be invented, and any suggestion that popular music was a subject for discussion in the serious press would have caused breakfast-time apoplexy across the Shires. That in the week of his death the front pages of both tabloids and broadsheets covered as a matter of apparently national importance the latest soap-opera episode in the career of the Manchester band Oasis demonstrates neatly just how much times changed within his working lifetime.

Now, pop provides a daily backdrop not just for teenagers but for a large section of the population often widely separated by age, education and background. Its personalities and cultural significance are deemed worthy of discussion by even the most heavyweight newspapers. Pop music has not merely achieved respectability, but has acquired its own "scholarship" and secondary literature. Coleman was, though not self-publicising or high profile, a significant figure in that area of the media which documented and, to a large extent, helped to influence that change.

Ray Coleman took his first newspaper job at 15 — as tea boy on the *Leicester Evening Mail*. After National Service in the Army, he joined the *Brighton Evening Argus*, then spent two years as a reporter on the *Manchester Evening News*, with industrial affairs as his speciality. While there, and reflecting his own keen interest in popular music, he became a local stringer for the then jazz and showbiz-dominated weekly, *Melody Maker*. Its editor, Jack Hutton, was impressed with the solid journalistic skills demonstrated in his copy and, in 1960, offered him a staff job in its London offices.

At a time when many entertainment specialists offered enthusiasm rather than news awareness, he proved a valuable addition: investigative reporting, rather than breathless reportage, was his style, and the paper acquired a new professionalism as a result.

When Beatlemania broke loose in 1963, *Melody Maker* shifted its axis to become essential reading for the new wave of young pop fans. Newly confirmed as deputy editor, Coleman was dispatched on tour with the four Liverpudlians, and his quiet professionalism quickly won their trust and respect, coming as a welcome antidote to the media mayhem unfolding all around them.

His relationship with John Lennon proved particularly strong, and his first book was to be a two-volume biography, compiled with the co-operation of both Cynthia Lennon and Yoko Ono, and published in 1984, four years after the star's death. Subsequently he also completed an exhaustive work on the group's manager, Brian Epstein, who died in 1967.

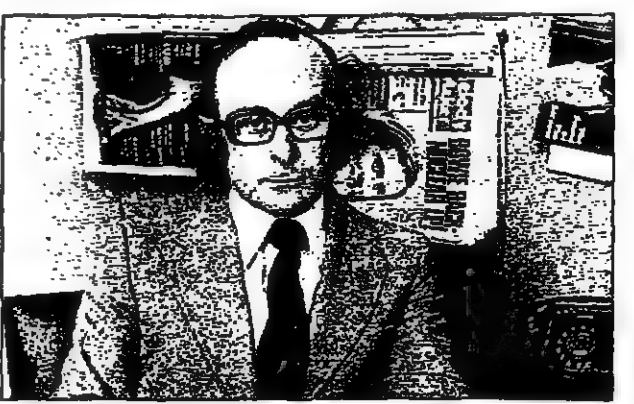
Coleman left *Melody Maker* in 1967 to take charge of the sister paper *Disc*, but returned three years later as editor. Sharpening its edge by hiring young writers with a similar local newspaper background to his own, he took the title to a circulation in excess of 200,000 copies in 1972 — still a record for a weekly music publication.

The Coleman style was for a front page dominated by dramatic stories of impending tours and new releases by the top acts of the day — or, there being nothing new under the sun, fallings-out and break-ups. Always keen to promote new young talent, both journalistic and musical, he put the paper's considerable influence behind the fledgling careers of such pop acts as Elton John, Rory Music and David Bowie, and was not fazed even when the first stirrings of the punk movement were noted in mid-1970s London.

Ironically, it was almost as if punk's inherent lack of respect for established values was to be the *Melody Maker's* undoing, and the title became eclipsed in both sales and street cred by its younger and more irreverent sister paper, the *New Musical Express*.

In 1979, Coleman stepped down as editor — but retained a senior position within the publishers IPC for two further years, helping to launch such titles as *Black Music* and *Musicians Only* — to concentrate on freelance journalism and book-writing.

In addition to his Beatles-related works, these included collaborations with the Rolling Stone Bill Wyman on his autobiography *Stone Alone*, and with Gerry Malone on *I'll Never Walk Alone*. Among other titles, he also published a biography of Eric Clapton and, most recently, in 1994, an incisive and well-received study of the professional and private lives of the Carpenters. At the time of his death he was nearing completion of an authorised life of Phil Collins.



Next Bishop of Southampton
The Rev Canon Jonathan Gledhill, Vicar, St Mary Bredin, Canterbury, diocese of Canterbury, and an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, is to be Suffragan Bishop of Southampton, succeeding the Rt Rev John Perry, now Bishop of Chelmsford.

Other appointments
The Rev Jonathan Baker, Assistant Curate, Sandstead All Saints (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, Scallyw Ravenscar and Stainton Vale, and Priest-in-charge, Hackness w Harwood Dale (York).
The Rev David Berry, Vicar, Midan's, Barrow-in-Furness (Carlisle): to be Chaplain, St Mary's, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (Europe).
The Rev Marc Boutan, Assistant Priest, St Andrew's, Mount Pleasant (South Carolina, ECUSA): to be Assistant

Priest, Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral, Brussels (Europe).
Rev Michael Butler, Vicar, St James and All Saints, Gloucester, and Rural Dean of Gloucester City (Gloucester): to be also an Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral.
The Rev Richard Cowen, Team Vicar, St Cedd's, Becontree West (Chelmsford): to be Priest-in-charge, Reading St Agnes w St Paul (Oxford).
The Rev Michael Cozens, Assistant Curate, All Saints, Ennsote (County): to be Assistant Curate, Prestbury (Gloucester).
The Rev Colin Critchley, NSM, Saints Nicholas and Mary, Halewood: now also Diocesan Child Protection Adviser (Liverpool).
The Rev Jeffrey Daly, Assis-

tant Chaplain at Sherborne School, Dorset (Salisbury): to be Chaplain of St Peter's School, York (York).
The Rev Andrew Davey, Priest-in-charge, Clenchington, and Priest-in-charge, West Lynn: to be Rector, united benefice of Clenchington and West Lynn (Ely).
The Rev Lesley de Pomerai, Assistant Curate, St Mary Magdalene, Sutton-in-Ashfield: to be Team Vicar, St Francis, Clifton Team Ministry (Southwell).
The Rev Dr David de Pomerai, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary Magdalene, Sutton-in-Ashfield: to be Associate Minister (NSM), Clifton Team Ministry (Southwell).
The Rev Ian Ellery, Rector, Farrington w. Hollym, Welwick and Winstead: to be

Team Rector, Howden Team Ministry (York).
The Rev Philip Hudd, Curate, St Mark, Kirkby: to be Priest-in-charge of that parish (Liverpool).
The Very Rev Kenneth Jennings, Dean of Gloucester (Gloucester): to be Dean Emeritus as from November 8, on retirement.
Resignations and retirements
The Rev Ian Jelley, Priest-in-charge, Leam Lane (Durham): to resign September 30, with permission to officiate, same diocese.
The Rev John Loxton, Vicar, Turners Hill (Chichester): to retire September 30.
The Rev Canon Bill Peters, Rector, Uckfield (Chichester): retired August 31.
The Rev Kenneth Withington, Vicar, Cricklade w Latton, and Rural Dean of Cricklade (Bristol): to retire January 31, 1997.

Church news

FOUR YEARS A CAPTIVE AT ST. MIHIEL

THE EXPERIENCES OF AN IRISH GIRL
(From a Special Correspondent)
American Army, Sept. 13
The people of St. Mihiel, delivered from German rule after four years, today brought out flags which they had carefully hidden away, put on the best clothes they could find, and celebrated the day by shaking hands with all who went into the town.
I had the strange experience of meeting an Irish girl who had been in the town all through the German occupation. It was while I was walking through one of the main streets, stopping to chat with civilians who bussed to shake hands, that a voice with an Irish brogue greeted me and a colleague with the question: "Are you Americans?" We answered that we were the first Englishmen to enter the town. Then this young Irish girl, Miss Aine Henry, of Tobberdy House, Dundore, County Lough, wearing a neat Union Jack bow, exclaimed enthusiastically: "How wonderful! Why, I'm Irish!"
At a relative's house she told us the story of her life in St. Mihiel.
"I came over to France in June, 1941, to live with my uncle, a major in the French Army, to

ON THIS DAY

September 16, 1918

During the closing stages of the war correspondents were glad to come across stories which told of personal experiences behind the lines.
learn French. When the war broke out he joined his regiment and a month later the Germans entered the town. I lived with my aunt here. A lady of middle-age, who spoke French with a foreign accent and was present in the little room where we talked, its walls adorned with photographs of her husband and relatives. I got very little to eat and were forced to find shelter in a cave whenever shelling began. Those who consented to work for the Germans in the fields or in washing clothes or other employment were paid in paper money, the conversion of which into hard cash was "guaranteed" two years after the war. Those who went to the fields were

under military escort. I was imprisoned in the Mairie for three weeks on suspicion of being a spy. Our greatest troubles were getting food, clothes, and news from the outside world. Every day we had to go out and buy our food from the supplies that the American Relief Commission sent through Belgium, but it was not a great deal. The Germans were in a similar plight. Clothes, too, came through the relief committees, but the majority of us had to dress as best we could.
To get news from our relatives we had to apply to the Red Cross. I got news from my father on several occasions, but although I often wrote to him I doubt whether he got my messages, for he always asked for news. For news we were supplied with the *Gazette des Ardennes*, the newspaper printed in French by the Germans for the occupied regions, and naturally filled with nothing but what the Germans wished us to believe. About a year ago I became so dispirited when I read of German successes day by day, but it was only momentary and I used to tell the Germans that all would come right for us one day.
When they left they seemed to think something had gone wrong. We knew nothing of the Allies' successes and the first indications of a retreat were when the Germans made preparations to evacuate the town.

HIGH TIDES									
DAY	AMA	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AMA	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:37	7.0	3:50	6.9	Leith	4:18	3.5	4:40	3.4
Greenwich	2:28	6.2	2:41	12.5	Liverpool	4:42	8.1	10.0	2.4
Wormouth	8:59	12.4	9:11	12.5	Livermouth	11:10	2.6	11:39	2.4
Wolverport	0:25	5.8	12:42	5.4	Malgave	1:26	4.6	1:38	4.6
Carlisle	9:44	11.8	9:58	11.9	Midland Haven	7:51	6.7	8:08	6.7
Grimsby	7:36	5.2	7:49	5.3	Portsmouth	8:36	2.0	8:47	2.0
London (N Wall)	0:22	6.5	12:40	6.7	Cardiff	7:20	3.8	7:29	3.8
Wormouth	6:39	5.5	6:50	5.5	Perthshire	6:18	5.3	6:25	5.3
Warrington	2:03	3.5	2:23	3.3	Portsmouth	4:47	4.9	4:59	4.6
Warrington	1:17	3.9	1:29	3.8	Shoreham	0:26	6.1	12:34	6.1
Warrington	0:57	6.0	1:09	5.8	Southampton	1:14	13.2	1:24	13.2
Warrington	7:54	7.4	8:19	7.3	Swansea	8:03	8.1	8:11	9.2
Warrington	7:54	7.4	8:19	7.3	Tide	8:18	5.2	8:42	5.1
Warrington	7:56	6.8	8:16	6.6	Warrington	1:12	12.5	1:21	12.5

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Celebrating a new series of moments to savour
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TUIGAMALA RULES
Wigan's ace gives Wasps a potent new sting
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GOLF CHALLENGE
Jesper Parnevik outlasts Colin Montgomerie for the Lancôme Trophy
PAGE 26

CRICKET
Surrey beat Glamorgan to win the Sunday League
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1996



Leboeuf ghosts in at the far post to steer the ball past Oakes, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, and score Chelsea's equaliser at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Stalemate at Stamford Bridge allows Liverpool to go top of Premiership

Villa survive test of timing

Chelsea 1
Aston Villa 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

BRIAN LITTLE, the Aston Villa manager, wore the look of a relieved man. He was reflecting on the moment just before half-time that Chelsea scored their equalising goal and described it as potentially decisive. In the event, Chelsea were denied the victory that would have put them on top of the FA Carling Premiership and had to settle for a draw. It was a just enough result, after an excellent first half and a second half that faded away in the bright sunshine at Stamford Bridge.

Little admitted that Chelsea's goal, put in on the blind side by Leboeuf, from Petrescu's curling pass, suddenly put his team under pressure. "You've got to come through that," he said, "and we were pleased to come through but

disappointed in the way we gave the ball away. In the first half, we did well and I was pleased with that. In the second half we gave it away too much for my liking. We had a good first touch. I liked that, but we were sloppy with our second ball. We stopped it too often instead of keeping the ball moving. Because of that, they kept us in our own half."

Significantly, Chelsea's manager, Ruud Gullit, still postponing his own, much awaited return to the field, changed his strategy after the interval. Johnson, who was injured, came off and in his place, Gullit boldly sent on Jodie Morris, 17, a little, natural inside forward, whose confidence grows game by game.

Switching his team's formation from 3-5-2 to 4-4-2, Gullit encouragingly showed that, unlike his predecessor, he makes neither a fetish nor a panacea of tactics. Little, for his part, told his own team: "It may be a compliment that the team said to be better than you at the system you're

playing had to change their system."

Villa did not change theirs, which worked pretty well defensively throughout the game. Little was "most pleased with Steve Staunton. He gave us a dimension down the left, but in the second half, when we were under pressure he hung in there". Villa played much attractive and progressive football in their first half, but it was a set-piece that brought them their goal in the eighteenth minute. Curcio was brought down just outside the penalty box by Burley. Cunningly,

Yorkie touched it to Townsend, the former Chelsea player, whose left-foot shot soared into the far top corner. Hitchcock reaching it but failing to stop it.

Hitchcock, however, had several distinguished moments in Chelsea's goal. As early as the seventh minute, he saved a point-blank header by Milosovic. On the half-hour, Curcio, working a one-two with Draper, darted through the Chelsea defence, only for Hitchcock to save again. Then, 18 minutes into the second half, when Nelson latched on to a half-cleared corner to fire in a shot, Hitchcock blocked it, though he must surely have seen the ball late.

Oakes, Villa's second-choice goalkeeper, was also performing well. In the first half he extended himself fully to turn over a clever lob by the adventurous Leboeuf, and in the second, he frustrated the same player by palming away a header.

"Leboeuf has played very well," Gullit said, "and we were very

happy with him." Well he might be, and well Gullit might sympathise with Leboeuf and the other Chelsea players for the battering they had to endure at times under the eye of Jeff Winter, a referee at once permissive and unobservant. "I want to say a lot of things, but I think it is best I don't say anything," Gullit said.

Arsenal forward 27
Graham's task 28
Berger sparkles 29

Gullit had felt his tactical changes allowed Chelsea to control the game in the second half, but the fact that Chelsea relied so heavily on Leboeuf's initiatives was a commentary on the ineffectiveness of their attack. Vialli, in particular, was strangely anonymous, seldom able to get the better of Ehiogu and Southgate.

Southgate, a few minutes before

Villa took the lead, had made a fine, saving tackle when Di Matteo burst through. To give Vialli his due, it was he who had set the movement going deep in his own half, holding the ball up before releasing it against three opponents. It was an act that promised much, but would, alas, be ultimately forgotten.

But Southgate, as we saw during Euro '96 has his momentary aberrations — and I am not referring to that penalty — and one weak header in the first half enabled Myers to get in a shot that narrowly cleared the far right-hand post.

The feeling persists that we shall not see the best of Chelsea until Gullit plays, but that will only happen when his body tells him it is the right moment.

CHelsea (3-4-2): K Hitchcock — F Leboeuf, S Charles, E Johnson (sub: J Morris, 60min) — D Petrescu, D Wiles, C Burley (sub: J Spencer, 88), R Di Matteo, A Myers — M Hughes, G Vialli.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — S Staunton, U Ehiogu, G Southgate — F Nelson, M Draper, S Curcio, A Wingo, A Townsend — S Milosovic (sub: T Johnson, 84), D Yorkie.

Referee: J Wiles.

THE TIMES
FIRST
FOR FOOTBALL



"Giggs is treading water. When he emerged, people imagined they saw a great player in the making. He will never be a great player now, that much is obvious."

Michael Henderson



"I had to tell my players to focus on the game and not to read any of the newspapers. I never had that problem with players at Wimbledon and Sheffield United, because they couldn't read."

Dave Bassett



"English clubs experienced mixed results in Europe, last week but it was hardly the disaster implied. Even by the usual standards there was a lot of rubbish talked."

Steve McManaman

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MORSE

FOOTBALL

Adams adds to season of upheaval at Highbury

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT APPEARED almost impossible for Arsenal's season to degenerate any further but, on Saturday, it did. Twenty-four hours after Stewart Houston, the assistant manager, had resigned after ten years at the club, Tony Adams, the captain, admitted he had a drink problem and was attending Alcoholics Anonymous.

Arsenal's once proud and dignified reputation was thus sullied again, the latest in an apparently never-ending series of revelations doing little to assist their weekend preparations for the FA Cup quarter-final match against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury tonight.

Houston's unexpected departure and Adams's disclosure has created an even more unsettled climate for the imminent arrival of Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's manager-elect. After weeks of prevarication, the beleaguered north London club is today expected to announce the date of Wenger's move from Japan, where he is coach of Nagoya Grampus Eight.

Adams, 29, captained England during Euro '96 but has not played for club or country this season because of a knee injury, missing the 3-0 win in Moldova, the first match of England's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Though he first accepted in February that he had an alcohol problem, he felt he was coping with it. He was noticeable by his absence from the antics of some of the England players on the pre-Euro '96 tour of the Far East. However, after the semi-final defeat against Germany, he sought solace in a "quiet drink" with friends. His intake escalated again, rapidly.

"I have a lot of things to do, a lot of things to work on, and I am doing it," Adams, unshaven and close to tears, said. "It's my way of life, and I'm changing my way of life, and would like respect from you." He then added: "Well, I would like respect from myself, actually."

Six years ago, Adams was jailed for four months, of

which he served two, for drink-driving offences; three years later, he needed 29 stitches in a head injury after falling down at a night club. More recently, his marriage broke down with his wife, Jane, having to receive treatment for cocaine addiction.

Adams has already gained widespread support, from his club, his team-mates and the Football Association. Paul Merson, the Arsenal forward, who is still attending counselling sessions for drink, drugs and gambling problems, has offered advice.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday: "Tony has our full backing. If there is anyone who is mentally tough enough to deal with this, it is him. It came as a shock to us but he showed during Euro '96 what a resilient character he is. Paul Merson got his act together, now Tony has to."

John Gorman, assistant to Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said: "There is nothing to talk about, it is an FA matter. At the moment, Glenn and I haven't given it a thought."

It is unlikely that Adams will play against Sheffield Wednesday this evening. Although he has returned to training, he has not yet fully recovered from injury. Dennis Bergkamp will also be missing, having pulled a hamstring during the 3-2 UEFA Cup defeat by Borussia Mönchengladbach last week.

However, Adams's long-term future is unlikely to be affected, as long as he continues to confront and control the problem. Footballers have long been known for their capacity to drink vast amounts, "run it off" the next day and play in a match as if nothing had happened.

Paul McGrath, the Ireland and Aston Villa defender, has faced a similar dilemma, on several occasions during his 16-year career. "I haven't touched any drink for a long time and I'm not finding it hard," he said yesterday. "Alcohol really isn't an issue in my life anymore." For Adams, the battle has only just begun.

Brabin arrested

GARY BRABIN, the Blackpool midfielder, was arrested by police after an incident involving Jamie Bates, the Brentford captain, at the end of the I-I draw in the Nationwide League second division match at Griffin Park on Saturday (Russell Kempson writes). Brabin was later released on bail.

The incident, in which Bates was allegedly punched on the back of the neck, took place after the players had left the pitch and were filing through the tunnel towards the dressing-rooms. Bates, 28, was carried to an ambulance on a stretcher, wearing an oxygen

mask, but was later discharged from hospital.

A police spokesman said yesterday: "We were called to the Brentford dressing-room and told that one of the players had collapsed after an alleged assault by a Blackpool player. He [Brabin] was arrested, taken to Chiswick police station and later released on bail." Brabin must report back on October 17 to discover if he will be charged.

A Brentford spokesperson said yesterday: "There will be no further statement from the club, at least until the start of the week when the dust has been allowed to settle."



Dempsey, of Mayo, powers his way past Coyle and McDermott in the Meath defence to score the only goal at Croke Park yesterday. Meath forced a replay in the final seconds

Ireland flies the flag for a family affair

Andrew Longmore in Dublin samples a heady cocktail of friendly sporting rivalry and intense local pride at the All-Ireland Gaelic football final

IN a two-acre field on Roonith Hill, near Killadown in Co Mayo, the words "Up Mayo" have been mown into the grass. Each letter is 20 feet tall, each one a reminder to the field's owner, Richard Aussen, that just for a day, the day of the All-Ireland Gaelic football final between Meath and Mayo, he is an outsider in his own home.

Aussen, you see, has settled in Mayo, but comes from Meath, an unimpeachable fact that Michael McNally, Aussen's next door neighbour, thought worthy of wider publicity — particularly as Aussen had provoked response by planting a green and gold Meath flag on the access road to Roonith Hill. A Meath flag in deepest West Mayo? McNally took to his mower in retaliation. All true Maymen would have done the same. Or worse. It is all part of the banter, part of the celebration of place and family and community which is the point of the whole shenanigan.

What else would inspire two elderly ladies from Ballinrobe to climb the holy mountain of Croagh Patrick and plant a Mayo flag not in the hands of the statue of St Patrick — someone else had already done that — but on the steeple of the little hilltop church, thereby ending all debate in the county about which flag was the highest? What else would bring planeloads of exiles whooping and hollering, waving flags and banging drums on the road to the ancient citadel of Croke Park in honour of childhoods only dimly recalled?

You could have had long odds on Meath playing Mayo in the All-Ireland final when the season began, long months ago. Neither were deemed to be ready for the ultimate challenge in Irish sport. Meath, with their Arsenal-like reputation for law enforcement and the memory of Peter McDermott, who captained them to the title in 1954 wearing a cloth cap, and the more whimsical Mayo, still clinging desperately to the memories of their last title, 45 years ago.

Both teams have improved out of all recognition through the season, and not even the shrewdest judges of the game — and opinions flow more freely than the stout — would care to have a Cheltenham-sized punt on the outcome. Except, of course, if you hail from Mayo or Meath. Then there is no doubt.

In England, we play at this game of allegiance. In Cup Final week, the local butchers might deck their window with the team's colours, but when the sturdy representatives of Blackburn Rovers or Manchester United emerge speaking French or Czech or Scandinavian, a little of the local colour is lost. Loyalty is blind, but it is to the club, not the individual.

At Croke Park yesterday, almost every one of the 65,000 capacity crowd, some of whom had paid £500 for a ticket on the flourishing black market, would have known one of the 30 players personally, or a cousin or

an uncle, or maybe had once played with the hero's brother in the under-13s. And if they had not, they would have pretended, and people would have believed them.

A few down Bohemian way might have had their conservatory built by Barry Callaghan, the Meath corner forward, who followed his father, Gerry, and uncle Henry, into the county's senior football jersey as well as into the family's joinery business. Callaghan's firm employs two other Meath players, Tommy Dowd, the captain, and Darren Fay.

Nothing much would have stirred in the tiny village of Shrule in Mayo yesterday, either. All the able-bodied inhabitants had disembarked to Dublin for the weekend to cheer Kenneth Mortimer, guaranteed free drinks for life in any one of the four pubs, win or lose, for being the village's first All-Ireland

footballer. So many hopes and fears shoehorned into the wonderland of Croke Park, with its spanking new corporate boxes and fancy new stand.

The final grossed more than £2 million in gate receipts, and yet the players received not one Irish pound. The nerves were in a lock to passion, not pay; the worst form of pressure — the pressure of not disgracing family, village, parish or county, of not being stereotyped as village idiot in smoky bars for the next 40 years, of being enshrined in local legend and not having your car scratched by the neighbourhood kids. In the hurly-burly and the flag-waving, the whistles and the raucous songs, something more indelible than the signature on a pay-cheque was at stake.

For the purists and the neutrals able to be objective about these things, the game needed to be noble of spirit. Lots of soaring long punts

and swooping high catches, not too much of this craven short hand-passing or negative spilling. A true game, in the old-fashioned way, to ward off the encroachment of that damned English soccer and the lingering fear that principles of the game, once handed down by the priests and the Christian Brothers, are being lost between the schools and the clubs.

The roots of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) are too deep to be severed by the mere fashion for Roy Keane and Manchester United shirts, though. Besides, Irish soccer has a peculiarly Gaelic quality to it and Hill 16, Jack Charlton's favourite Dublin haunt, is only a long ball away from Croke Park, the monument to the GAA's buoyancy.

Nevertheless, the final was a game for every team in every parish in the 32 counties of the GAA. The neutrals wanted Mayo to win, their green and red flags outnumbering the green and gold of Meath by four to one. Not many of the bearers could say truthfully that they saw Mayo's last All-Ireland title, in 1951, and that could have been the telling factor. Mayo wanted to win that little bit more.

Gaelic football is a game of pressure and individual duels. Mayo won most of those. But they could not win the match.

Six points ahead midway through the second half, courtesy of a goal (three points) and eight points, Mayo began to tire. Meath, strong and athletic, eased closer and closer, the wind gathering force at their backs, their manager, Sean Boylan, a herbalist by trade, patrolling the touchline.

Mayo desperately tried to cling on to their lead, but with 12 seconds left Meath squared it. After a frantic finale, the game just melted into nothing. No extra time, no heroes or villains, just anticlimax and a replay on September 29. They will have to keep the grass mown on Roonith Hill for another fortnight.

Coyle clinches replay for Meath

Mayo 1-9
Meath 0-12

By A CORRESPONDENT

MEATH'S survival instincts, honed on a history of dramatic comebacks, rescued them once again as they recovered from a six-point deficit to draw with Mayo in the All-Ireland senior football final in Croke Park.

In a dramatic finale to a disappointing game, Colm Coyle, the Meath wing-back, kicked the equalising point in the last minute. Earlier it had looked all over for Meath.

Ray Dempsey's goal in the 45th minute gave Mayo a 1-8 to 0-5 lead.

Mayo supporters in the 65,896 crowd were beginning to celebrate their county's first All-Ireland success since 1951 but Meath refused to concede.

Mayo will feel the more disappointed by the result. They were by far the more effective team in the opening half. Liam McHale and David Brady, the midfield players, were well on top and in attack Maurice Sheridan, Ray Dempsey and Colm McManamon were quick and inventive. Mayo led by five points to two by the twentieth minute and were still in control at half-time when they led by 0-7 to 0-4. They stretched their lead early in the second half and when Dempsey scored the game's only goal, a Mayo

victory looked certain. However, Meath regrouped and with Trevor Giles, Brendon Reilly, Darren Fay and Martin O'Connell all in superb form they fought back to earn a second chance.

It was the first time that an All-Ireland final had finished level since 1988 when Meath drew with Cork. The replay will be on Sunday week. SCORERS: Mayo: R Dempsey 1-0, J Horan 0-3, M Sheridan 0-4, C McManamon, P O'Loughlin 0-1 each. Meath: T Giles 0-6, B Reilly 0-3, G Gargan, J McDermott, and C Coyle 0-1 each. MAYO: J Sheridan, M Sheridan, P O'Connell, P Holmes, J Nolan, N Connolly, L McFadden, D Bradley, J Horan (sub: K O'Neil), C McManamon, M Sheridan, D Níester (sub: P B Lifford), J Conroy (sub: A Fennelly), R Dempsey. MEATH: C Morris, M O'Reilly, D Fay, M O'Connell, C Coyle, E McManamon, P Reynolds (sub: D Curtis), J McGuinness (sub: J Dawkins), J McDermott, T Giles, J Dowd, O'Donoghue, E Kelly (sub: J Brady), B Reilly, B Callaghan. Referee: P McInerney (Monaghan).

Roberts makes Albion rue their charitable defending

West Bromwich Albion 2
Wolverhampton W 4

By RICHARD HOBSON

WITH West Bromwich Albion 2-0 down, a supporter behind the goal recovered the stray ball and gave poor Paul Crichton a public lecture, jabbing finger and all, before throwing it back to the goalkeeper. Sometimes you do not need the experience of Alan Hansen to recognise rank bad defending.

On three occasions, Iwan Roberts arrived unmarked at the far post to beat the unprotected Crichton while Steve Bull also profited from similar generosity. The fact that the home side dominated the final half-hour merely underlined their difficulties.

Wolves go third as a result of this Nationwide League first division victory, their first at The Hawthorns since 1989. Perennially tipped as promotion challengers, they have given their manager, Mark McGhee, the start they could not deliver to Graham Taylor a year ago.

"This was a great result and I take a lot of satisfaction from the way they passed and moved," McGhee said. "I was

delighted with Iwan's contribution when he wasn't scoring goals and I knew it was only a matter of time before they came along. I didn't think it would be in three, though."

Just four minutes had gone when the Albion defence followed the gold shirts towards the near post as Steve Froggatt swung in a corner from the right flank, only for Roberts to head in unopposed beyond them all. Froggatt had a vital role in what was to follow, too. Eleven minutes later Roberts

Graham's return 28
Berger blossoms 29

flicked on his long throw for Bull to turn and poke home.

In contrast to the charity they received, Wolves defended in a more frugal manner. Albion passed the ball around nicely but with too little purpose until Bob Taylor replaced Paul Peschisolidi at half-time.

Before that, after 29 minutes, Roberts scored with a carbon-copy of his first effort and although Albion pulled one back two minutes before the interval through Ian Hamilton, Albion were still left, in the words of their manager

Alan Buckley, with a "mountain to climb."

Buckley said: "The problem was that we were always too far behind to give ourselves a chance. People who do not understand what they are watching would look at the scoreline and think we were battered, but it was not like that. In the first half Wolves had two good corners, a long throw, and that was it."

What Buckley meant was that some errors are more expensive than others. Wolves tended to make theirs in areas where they could recover possession quickly or, failing that, pull men behind the ball.

When, after 54 minutes, Richards intercepted a loose pass, the ball moved via Andy Thompson to Froggatt whose cross in turn found Roberts at the far post, unmarked, naturally, to complete his hat-trick. Taylor scored Albion's second after 67 minutes and from then on Wolves could not carve out a chance. But by then it hardly mattered.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): P Crichton — P Holmes, P Merson (sub: K Donohue, D Brown), D Brown, S Nicholson — I Hamilton, P Groves, R Sheehan, D Smith (sub: D Gibbs, 46) — A Hunt, P Peschisolidi (sub: R Taylor, 46). WOLVERHAMPTON (WOLVES) (3-5-2): M Small — D Richards, M Atkins, M Venus — J Smith, S Corica, S Osborn, A Thompson, S Froggatt — S Bull, I Roberts. Referee: M Pearce.

SQUASH

Unheralded Gough sinks Parke

SIMON PARKE'S return to action, after a brush with cancer earlier this year, ended in another defeat in Cairo yesterday when he was knocked out of his slot as No 4 seed in the Zetra Open by Alex Gough, the Welsh No 1, who had to fight through two tough qualifying matches to reach this first-round encounter (Colin McQuillan writes).

"I have trained with Simon in Nottingham for the past two months but this is the first time I've managed to defeat him," the Newport-based, world No 36 said after a 13-15, 15-7, 15-12, 8-15, 15-13 triumph.

Parke lost two weeks ago in the first round of the Hong Kong Open to Derek Ryan, the Irish champion and, ominously, is drawn in the first round of the Qatar International next month against Martin Heath, of Scotland, who won the Singapore Open at the start of the new PSA World Cup Tour.

Another casualty yesterday was Stephen Meades, the Berkshire-based England international, who lost 12-15, 15-13, 15-10, 15-14 to Julian Wellings, a qualifier, from Eastbourne.

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"AN HYSTERICAL PERFORMANCE FROM REYNOLDS..."

DEMI MOORE



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No matter what they wear.

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OPENS FRIDAY AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU

Graham seeking double indemnity

Boy wonder struggling to find feet in man's game

Critics much too quick to condemn

Sullivan repairing fall-guy image

10-10-68

FOOTBALL

Liverpool savour quality of Berger

Leicester City 0
Liverpool 3

By DAVID MADDOCK

CRITICS had begun to wonder idly before this game about a Liverpool forward line strangely lacking the appetite of last season. Where is the beef? They need not have bothered, because it was there all right against Leicester City, served up in the form of a Berger.

Patrik Berger, to be precise. The Czech Republic international helped his new club to the top of the FA Carling Premiership with a wonderful display of football's finer arts. Berger was only introduced as a half-time substitute, but he required no more than 45 minutes to destroy the home team with two excellent goals.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, believes his £3.6 million midsummer signing from Borussia Dortmund will ultimately find his calling as an attacking midfielder player. Here, he provided the movement and touch in the front line that has been missing so far this season.

"Patrik made a real impact and he has now given me a real headache after just a half because he is pushing so hard to start," he said. "I brought him on to make a tactical change. I wanted someone coming from deeper and he did everything I asked of him."

Between them, Collymore and Fowler, scored 55 goals last season. You would not have guessed it in a first half of which Evans admitted he had become bored with the way his side had wasted so much possession. The lines of communication were not so much down, as ripped to pieces, and even the untutored eye can spot a suggestion of a problem between the pair.

Liverpool passed the ball around well enough in the first half with a swagger even after overcoming the distress of almost conceding a goal within 35 seconds of the kick-off. The penetration was lacking to such an extent, though, that Leicester had looked the better, more direct, team.

It was only the second appearance Berger had made for the first team, the first coming also as a second half substitute last week, but he looked as though he had been there half his life, such was his instant rapport with McManaman, in particular, and Fowler.

With his flowing locks and elegant balance, Berger has the look of a thoroughbred. His second goal bore the hallmark of a player with a genuine athletic talent. His

movement then reminded one of George Best, a haunting quality to his running as he ghosted past startled defenders.

It was a fine goal, delivered after 77 minutes to give the scoreline an emphatic look that Liverpool's second-half performance deserved. An intelligent back-heel from Fowler sent Berger gliding over the turf and he waltzed around the challenge of three defenders before drilling the ball into the corner of the net with a ferocious left-foot drive.

By then Leicester were dead and buried, undone by a succession of mistakes that will have to be eradicated quickly if they are to maintain a hold on their precious Premiership status. Two errors cost goals and a third was equally telling. Heskey finding James from point-blank range when the Liverpool goalkeeper's net was a far easier target. That came in the first minute and even then one sensed that the home side would be forced to pay for such profligacy.

Liverpool always appeared the more menacing and, when Berger arrived to give them more of an edge, they assumed control of the game. The Czech immediately had one shot blocked, but when a second chance came along in the 58th minute, he, unlike the Leicester defence, made no mistake.

Watts rashly tried to dribble the ball from defence but was robbed by Berger, who gave the ball to McManaman, made an angle for the return on the left of the penalty box and dispatched his left-foot shot into the near corner with slide-rule precision.

Three minutes later and another mistake cost another goal. Fowler dummied a Bjornebye cross from the left to allow Thomas a shooting opportunity. The 25-yard drive was crisp enough, but Keller should have done better than to allow the ball to squirm under his body.

To Leicester it was a painful lesson. "What hurts most is that they weren't brilliant goals, but goals from us," Martin O'Neill, the manager, said. "We gave goals away and with Liverpool as a yardstick we have a long way to go."

For Liverpool, the immediate future is brighter. They are top and in Berger have found a forward with the movement to give licence to their intelligent passing play. Collymore may be the one to stand down, with Evans hinting that he has tired of waiting for him and Fowler to recapture their understanding of last season.

LEICESTER CITY (3-2-2): K. Walker — S. Potts (sub: G. Parker, 67m), J. Walsh (sub: J. Marshall, 70), S. Walsh — S. Grayson, M. Lynam, S. Taylor, M. Whittow — B. Bates, E. Heskey.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — M. Whittow, D. Mannion, P. Babb — J. McManaman, M. Thomas, J. Evans, S. Collymore, S. Taylor — P. Berger, 40, R. Fowler, S. Doolan.



Bjornebye, left, the Liverpool defender, steps in to challenge Izzet during the defeat of Leicester yesterday

Blackburn waiting for luck to turn in period of readjustment

Newcastle United 2
Blackburn Rovers 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

BLACKBURN, now at the bottom, better away than at home, lost at St James' Park on Saturday but were unfortunate that a doubtful penalty should turn the tide against them. One, moreover, which came at the delicate moment just before half-time.

As Newcastle's manager, Kevin Keegan, admitted, Blackburn controlled the game in its earlier stages and, if they had not deserved to win, they at least gave his team a hard run for their money.

It was doubly sad that the penalty should have been given against that indomitable blond Scot, Colin Hendry, a hero until that moment.

Harford said the penalty had his team "going in at half-time with their heads down, rather than up. I spoke to the referee, who I think is an excellent referee. I thought he was a bit quick with it. If there was an element of doubt, it should have gone our way, and there was a good element of doubt. The ball hit the arm rather than the arm hit the ball."

Unsurprisingly, both Keegan and Alan Shearer, the former Blackburn centre forward who put away the penalty, were of the other opinion.

Though Keegan said it was the kind of penalty you do not like to give away or, even when you get it, makes you feel sympathy for the other side, he insisted that "ball to hand, must be a penalty." So did Shearer. This put an interesting new gloss on the laws, which clearly state that there must be intent.

Mistakenly, Keegan believed Newcastle should have had another penalty when Flowers, sweeping the ball from Shearer's feet, brought him down when he had done so, following an untypical blunder by Hendry.

Blackburn, for their part, "still seething at half-time," as Harford said, claimed a penalty themselves, early in the second half. Gallacher danced away from the uncertain Watson down the left to put across

a ball which Howey handled, on the ground. Deliberately? Who knows? In any case, he got away with it.

The decisive second Newcastle goal came after 16 minutes in the second half and, to Harford's disgust, it came from a corner after a dynamic movement in which Ginoia, Batty and Beardsley set up Lee, whose rocketing drive was turned aside by Flowers. Shearer headed the corner back across goal and Ferdinand turned it in.

Shearer was always a threat. After only six minutes, he forced Flowers to dive to his thundering free kick. Ten minutes later, receiving from the ever lively Beardsley, he hit a sharp angled shot from the right, which gave Flowers further trouble.

By contrast, Blackburn's goal, some eight minutes from the end, was slightly soft. Fenton, a vigorous substitute, booted whenever he was on the ball by a crowd that clearly could not forgive the way he sunk their team last season, raced through from the left and found Chris Sutton, whose unexceptional shot rather surprisingly beat

Smirke. Sutton's displays, since his return from long convalescence, have, however, given Harford hope.

Keegan admitted Newcastle had not played well, and had not "passed it well". Their midweek game in the UEFA Cup against Halmstadt,

though they had won 4-0, had taken more out of them than may have been apparent. Indeed, he said, if they had not got Ferdinand and Shearer up front against Blackburn, they might well have lost.

Harford explained that the challenge Blackburn face this season is to carry on after "losing the most expensive forward in the country." Or anywhere else, for that matter.

A week ago, Harford was watching Udinese play Internazionale. It was assumed he was interested in Oliver Bierhoff, the big centre forward who came on as a substitute in the Euro 96 final to score Germany's two goals. Harford said, grimly, that he was simply watching Udinese. We can assume Bierhoff is in his sights.

A very late developer, Bierhoff was expected to go to Juventus in the summer, but did not, and Blackburn can easily afford him, even without another infusion of Jack Walker's money.

Meanwhile, Kevin Keegan threw Blackburn a crumb of comfort. "I see," he said, "a team that isn't having the rub of the green."

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Smirke — S. Watson, S. Howey, D. Peacock, J. Beardsley — D. Batty, R. Lee (sub: K. Gillespie, 81m), P. Beardsley (sub: L. Clark, 67), D. Girdle — A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand (sub: F. Aspinall, 73).

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — M. Berg, C. Hendry, C. Coleman, J. Kinnear — G. Ginoia (sub: S. Riley, 67), T. Shearer (sub: G. Fenton, 80), L. Bechtem, G. Fickert (sub: W. McKinley, 67), C. Sutton, K. Gallacher.

Referee: N. Burge.



Sutton: reason for hope

Frustrated Souness refuses to sound alarm bells

Southampton 0
Tottenham Hotspur 1

By MARK HODKINSON

THIS fixture has produced some thrillers in recent years, but, as the scoreline suggests, the game on Saturday was not one of them. A repeat of the goalless draw of last season seemed certain until Armstrong scored from a penalty, after his own cross from the right was needlessly handled by Neilson.

The consequence, inevitably, is a game choked of flair, thought, ingenuity and expression. Reid's plan almost succeeded at the Baseball Ground but was finally thwarted by an aristocrat, in the shape of Aljosha Asanovic, of Derby County.

The Cross, signed in the close season, brought order to the chaos. He repeatedly saw through the smog of Sunderland's defensive wall and retreated to the halfway line from where he could find space to pass the ball. Asanovic created the game's only goal six minutes before the end and it was an appropriate testimony to a cool, thoughtful brain.

He shuffled towards the Sunderland goal, rightly guessing that an imprudent leg would soon halt his progress. Sure enough, and with almost comic timing, Gareth Hall offered his boot and Asanovic tumbled to the byline. The penalty, and moral justice, was dispatched efficiently, Asanovic handling the duties himself.

Before the goal, there had been incidents aplenty, but most had only tenuous links to football. Amid the confusion, accidents or otherwise were inevitable, and David Ellery, the referee, had a job to discern intent from mishap. By the finish, he had booked eight players.

Ellery had no qualms about his decision to send off Richard Ord, the Sunderland defender, for dissent after he had been booked earlier for a petulant tackle. Kevin Ball, Ord's colleague, grumbled that the dismissal had been unfair. "It is a man's game," he said. "And at the end of the day you should be able to have your say out there. I heard what he said, and I've said worse in front of my missus."

A scrappy game degenerated still further. Sometimes up to three Sunderland players would ambush an opponent before a pass had even arrived. Derby were disconcerted and, Asanovic aside, were barren of ideas to shake off the terriers at their heels.

In the congestion, chances were at a premium and shots had to be launched from outside the penalty area. Asanovic hit the crossbar while Cotton saved magnificently from Gabbiadini and also at the feet of Daily.

Afterwards Reid, much like his team, gave barely an inch. Was it a penalty? The referee gave it, didn't he?

DERBY COUNTY (4-3-1-2): R. Hunt — J. Laursen, G. Powell, J. Strain, M. Carlton (sub: P. Simpson, 80), D. Power, C. Power — A. Asanovic — M. Gabbiadini, C. Daily.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): J. Cotton — G. Hall, A. Mielke, R. Ord, M. L. Taylor — P. Brackwell (sub: I. Howey, 74), K. Ball, M. O'Brien (sub: M. Bridges, 74), R. Allen, C. Armstrong.

Referee: P. Alcock.

Asanovic plots way through the chaos of Sunderland

Derby County 1
Sunderland 0

By MARK HODKINSON

PHILOSOPHER that he is, Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is a subscriber to the chaos theory. He puts itching powder in his team's boots and asks them to recreate the anarchy of a Moroccan street market on a football pitch.

The consequence, inevitably, is a game choked of flair, thought, ingenuity and expression. Reid's plan almost succeeded at the Baseball Ground but was finally thwarted by an aristocrat, in the shape of Aljosha Asanovic, of Derby County.

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Referee: P. Alcock.

Power of recall needed to savour brighter days

Crystal Palace 3
Manchester City 1

By OLIVER HOLT

HIS moustache is still the same, his arms seem just as long, his legs just as spindly as they were in the days Manchester City fans called him "Spider" and watched him score one of the greatest goals in the club's history.

When Paul Power went to collect his press ticket for City's game against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Saturday, though, the receptionist looked at him blankly.

Power was always something of a mock-heroic figure at Maine Road, a pale imitation of a legend, but the smattering of away fans in the temporary offices behind the grandstand hushed as he argued over his ticket. The curling free-kick he scored against Ipswich Town to take his team to the FA Cup Final in 1981 should still count for something, perhaps, but City do not get any free gifts these days.

They cannot even get a manager, George Graham turned them down. Howard Kendall was refused permission to speak to them and Dave Bassett, their latest

flame and the manager of their opponents on Saturday, has constantly denied any contact with Francis Lee, the City chairman. "Can't you link with me Cindy Crawford," he said. "She's probably got more dough."

"There has been no official approach but there is very little I can do to stop the rumours. I had to tell my players to ignore it all and focus on the game and not to read the papers. I never had that problem with the other clubs I managed, Wimbledon and Sheffield United, because they couldn't read."

"I can't say what I would do if City did get in touch. If Cindy Crawford rang me to ask me out, I would have to deal with it at the time. Why should I talk about turning something down that I have not been offered. You might as well say I've turned down Newcastle and Man United in that case. Oh and by the way, I've just put in a bid for Bassett."

Bassett, though, is the kind of irrepressible character City need to lift flagging fortunes that sagged even further with the sending off of their captain, Symons, for a professional foul. They were listless and devoid of inspiration on Saturday against a Palace team that

is hardly outstanding but was made to look very good.

Kinkladze could only rouse himself on a couple of occasions, the last being the through-ball that presented Kavelashvili with a consolation goal. By then, though, two goals from Hopkins, one a curling right-foot shot that landed in the top corner of Dibble's goal and an apology of a strike from Andersen, had consigned City to the bottom half of the table.

It left Asa Harford, the caretaker manager whose players want him to get the job permanently, admitting it was the worst performance in his four games in charge. One of the City fanzines, *Bert Trautmann's Helmet*, titled its editorial Desolation Row, and included one pithy comment on relegation last season.

"All those people who claimed we were too good to go down have been proved wrong," it said. "It is a fact of footballing life that no team with Alan Ball at the helm is ever too good to go down."

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-2-2): C. Day — D. Taylor, A. Roberts, L. Alderson, K. Howard — M. Edwards (sub: D. Bosc, 67m), R. Houghton, C. Veat, D. Hopkin — D. Freeman, G. Day (sub: G. Welch, 77).

MANCHESTER CITY (4-2-2): A. Dobbie — S. Lomas, K. Symons, R. Ingram, M. Franks (sub: D. Walsall, 60) — J. Whalley, G. Kinkladze, N. Clough, M. Brown (sub: I. Beghwell, 45; sub: M. Kavelashvili, 70) — P. Dickie, U. Ristic.

Referee: Andrew D. Upton.

Thrifty Fry has to forgo the posh life

Peterborough United 2
York City 2

By PAT GIBSON

TALK about poachers turned gamekeepers. Barry Fry, who has bought and sold more footballers than most of the aforementioned, have had rabbit pie dinners, is having to change his ways now that he is playing with his own money.

Fry, having fielded all eight of the players that he signed during the summer at London Road on Saturday, probably felt like jettisoning at least half a dozen of them and popping out to the cash and carry to buy another job-lot after his Nationwide League second division side had again surrendered a hard-earned lead.

Fry, though, is the owner of Peterborough United as well as the manager, and having to learn about cash-flows, bank charges and all those other little items that can put clubs like his on the road to ruin. He is learning fast. "I have been very critical of chairmen and boards of directors in the past," he said, "and I can only apologise and sympathise with them now that I've got the same problems myself."

"I realise that I have got to

be more responsible. The club is bigger than any individual and I cannot go out and spend, spend, spend. The club has got to be run properly and I have got to cut my cloth accordingly."

It is no easy task for a manager who is not known for his patience. Now, however, he talks enthusiastically about his schools of excellence for boys from nine to 15, the four under-18 internationals in the youth team and the work that will have to be done to repair a suspect defence.

Peterborough looked good enough going forward. Rowe, signed on a free transfer from Chelsea, put them ahead with a clever overhead kick in the 55th minute and Payne, picked up from Watford, restored their lead in the 75th minute after Charley had headed down a cross supplied by McKeever, 16, with his first touch in League football.

In between times, however, a leader-footed defence allowed Bushell to equalise and then Pepper to levelled again five minutes from time. PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-2-2): J. Shuttlefield — A. Bushell, G. Heald, M. Bodley, S. Welch — R. Williams (sub: C. Griffiths, 74m), M. O'Connor (sub: M. Ebdon, 73), D. Payne, S. Houghton (sub: M. McKeever, 73) — C. Rowe, K. Charley.

YORK CITY (4-4-2): A. Warrington — A. McMillan, J. Shaples, T. Evans, G. Hinwood — G. Murry, S. Bushell, N. Pepper, P. Stephenson (sub: D. Williams, 73) — G. Bull, N. Lilland.

Referee: M. Bailey.

Sharpe disenchanted with his life in the slow lane

Swansea City 1
Fulham 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

SIR JOHN HALL, Mr Newcastle United, continues his pursuit of sporting domination on a global scale. David Dein, the Arsenal power broker, knows what he is doing at Highbury, even if nobody else does; and Alan Sugar, at Tottenham Hotspur, wants to put a cap, belatedly, on players' spiralling wages. Big men, big ideas, big bucks.

Doug Sharpe, chairman of Swansea City, of the Nationwide League third division, has had enough. He wants out. After 17½ years of boardroom involvement at the Vetch Field, plus countless seasons on the terraces, his enthusiasm has finally waned. The love affair is over.

"My heart is still in the club, I can't just walk away after all this time, but I've done enough," he said. "You can stay in one place too long and I no longer have that drive, that spark. It has gone from me."

"I've been through hell trying to keep the club going all these years and I will not continue, financially, to support it any more. I've also got my health and my business to

consider. I don't want the club to die but I don't want Doug Sharpe to die, either."

Such is life in the nether regions of football's professional pyramid, where the Nationwide small fry have long since been cast aside by the FA Carling Premiership elite. Even Sharpe, 57, a wealthy South Wales builder, has been forced to give up the unequal fight, his passion, energy and finances spent.

At the Vetch on Saturday, Swansea took on Fulham, the third division leaders. They started well, going ahead through Thomas, but faded, losing to second-half goals from Conroy, his eighth of the season, and Morgan.

The club is up for sale, with offers opening in the region of £750,000. It has no overdraft because of the reluctant, yet necessarily serial, disposal of its prime assets — Chris Coleman, Des Lytle, Andy Melville *et al* — and Sharpe is prepared to write off sizeable chunks of the £1.4 million he has made in personal loans.

"If the new man needs a bit of help, I'll help," Sharpe said, "but I've been pumping in money left, right and centre and I've gone as far as I can go." Harsh economics dictate a frugal existence at the Vetch. Costs run at up to £70,000 a

month — Jan Molby, the player-manager, reportedly earns £3,000 a week — and the club's two home matches last week raised about £23,000.

"Where's the rest come from?" Sharpe said. "Your pocket?" he was asked. "You can work it out for yourself," he replied. "Unless you have a winning team, and you are getting good crowds through the gate, there's no way you can survive."

Thus it hurt when Molby, the former Denmark and Liverpool midfielder player, who arrived in February, recently criticised Sharpe. Molby recalled Sharpe's persuasive early talk of ambition, optimism and team strengthening, contrasting it with his now imminent departure.

"I was disappointed, it was diabolical," Sharpe said, "but Jan has apologised and that's it." Molby said: "We've had a chat, I just wanted to know what was going on. The picture is not that much clearer but we'll just have to wait and see what happens."

SWANSEA CITY (2-2-2): R. Freeman — S. Gammie, K. Walker, C. Edwards — S. Jones, S. Penney, S. Chapple (sub: R. Appleby, 20m), L. Jenkins (sub: C. McDonald, 82), J. Coates — S. Torrey, D. Thomas.

FULHAM (3-4-1-2): A. Lange — D. Cuthbert, W. Watson, M. Cusack, S. Morgan, T. Angus — P. Scott (sub: G. Cookson, 81) — M. Conroy, D. Freeman.

Referee: P. Rogers.

Rob Hughes selects George Weah's solo effort for Milan as the finest he has witnessed

A goal fit to set before the football gods



No man, they claim, is an island, no team player can ever function alone, particularly the goalscorer, who needs to be set up with his opportunities. September 8, 1996, the first day of the new Italian Serie A season, contradicted those life-long maxims.

In the 87th minute of the match between AC Milan and Verona, George Oppong Weah transcended any solo goal in the imagination. He defended a Verona corner, he ran 85 metres, he outpaced, out-thought, outclassed seven gentlemen of Verona, and within 14 seconds, 30 strides and 14 touches of the ball, he scored.

"It was a goal for Italy, for Africa, for Milan," Weah said, somewhat imperiously, in the calm of the San Siro dressing-room.

This athlete — and the goal demonstrated athleticism to the full — came out of Liberia to northern Italy, via the South of France, to demonstrate the continuing thrill to the world of the relatively uncoached African player; the skills of men not yet suppressed either by coaching or by the limitations we place on what can and what cannot be done with a football, with the feet, with the fantasy within the mind.

The Italian media, and their galaxy of former players who revere goals above everything else, can remember only two individual goals even remotely on a par: the second goal of England's World Cup game against Argentina in Mexico City in 1986, scored, of course, by Maradona, and — beyond my recollection, but fresh to Italians — a goal by "Gigi" Riva against East Germany in Naples in 1969.

"Almost" is the relevant word, for among those paying tributes throughout the past week was Riva himself. "I have seen nothing to surpass that," he said. "What Weah did over 85 metres, his strength and the cleanness with which he shot, cannot be beaten."

So, let us analyse those 14 seconds. The first touch came with Milan defending a precarious 2-1 lead. Verona had shown resilient courage, had forced Milan back for a corner



Weah screams his goal against Verona, scored after running almost the length of the field. Photograph: Carlo Pumagalli

deep into the time when cramp and fatigue were setting in. From that corner, overhit beyond the far post, Weah cushioned the ball with the outside of his right foot. He was level with his own penalty spot and, in the same moment that he made contact with the ball, he began his long, powerful, uninhibited strides.

The yellow shirts in pursuit seemed to drop off him like beads of sweat. In our diagram, look particularly at the Verona No 2, the right back, Caverzan. He doggedly pursues Weah the entire 85 metres, except that he never gets within a yard of his target.

When Weah, the ball hypnotically under his influence, reaches the centre circle, Caverzan is the third of a trio of opponents who make their challenge. Fattori gets in the tackle, Bacci is less than a foot away at Weah's back. The big African treats them almost with disdain. He turns 180 degrees, touching the ball three times. They are deft touches, mere dabs of control, as his balance and body movement extricates him from the trio, and he once again glides into his athletic acceleration.

From the halfway line to the

opponents' penalty area involves just five more touches, all with the right foot. Among those alerted and trying to get on terms with his speed are Marretti, who should have been fresh enough, having come on only minutes before as a replacement for a colleague for whom the sapping endeavour of the first game of the season had proved utterly exhausting.

Those who watched the match know that Weah had

himself before, without particular venom but with laser-like precision, and with the instep of his right boot, he dispatched the ball where, all along, something inside him seemed to indicate that it would nestle inside the far post.

During the week that followed, Italy simply marvelled. Here was a country in dispute because a young woman of black skin had won a beauty contest in the south. Here was a country, with football in its

religions in his life, from Muslim to Christian, but he believes the talent that brought him out of the civil war in the distressing homeland of his origin, can only have come from above.

When considering his goal, when attempting to compare the homing instinct of a pigeon with others through the history of the game, it has to be observed that, for all the strength, single-mindedness and sweetness of his movement, Weah's goal actually defied the collective essence of the team game.

Weah not only took out three-quarters of the opposition, but he also effectively ignored the entire complement of Milan. He used no other part of his anatomy to control or guide the ball other than his feet and he did not finish with an arrogant flourish; indeed, with no more panache than was necessary.

So, the greatest goal? How do we compare when goals might be as individualistic as fingerprints? Gerd Muller, small and squat and nothing like Weah in build, used to say that goalscorers do not think goals. Something inside them tells them where to go, when to shoot.

'The goal did not involve a pass; no one was on his wavelength'

worked tirelessly for his team, but if all you saw in isolation was this long sprint, you would not credit that.

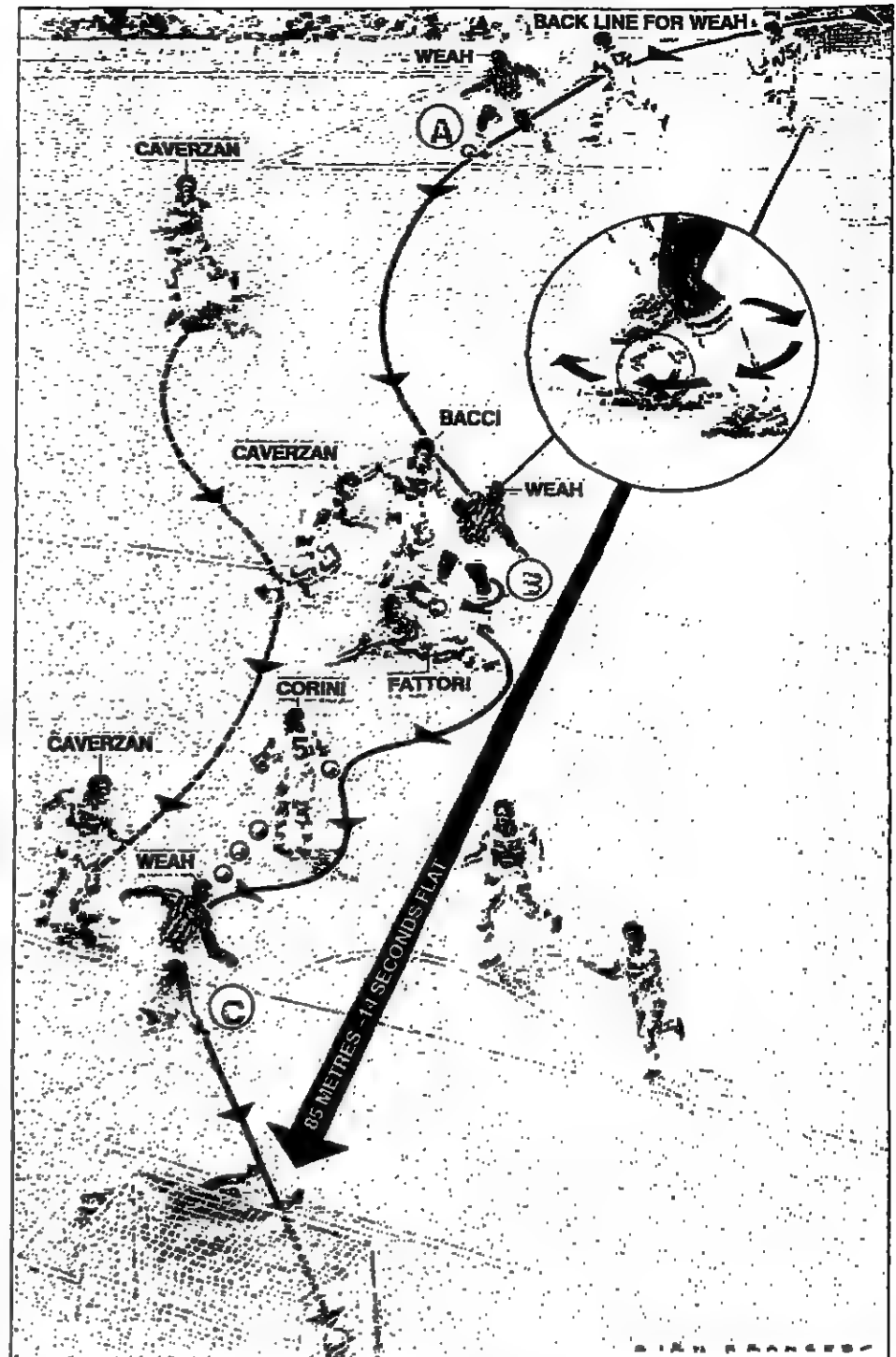
One more defender dared to impose himself, or try to, on Weah's path. Corini, stood plumb in front of the Liberian. Weah flicked the ball tantalisingly close to the right of Corini, and slipped his own body to the left. Corini looked bemused and, anyway, Weah was gone.

Now, two strides inside the penalty area, he allowed Gregori, the goalkeeper, to commit

blood, utterly colour blind to the man of the hour. They wondered how he could move so intricately and so fast.

The answer came from Arsène Wenger, the would-be Arsenal coach, who, from his home in Japan, explained that when he coached the young Weah at AS Monaco, he could complete 100 metres in 11.5sec. He was challenged, even at that pace, by Fofana, from the Ivory Coast, and Klinsmann, from Germany.

Speak to Weah, and he talks to you of God. He has changed



A couple of seasons ago, playing for PSV Eindhoven against Milan, Romario toyed with arguably the most experienced defender in the world, Franco Baresi.

He flicked the ball into the air with his left foot, over his own shoulder and over Baresi. He then ran around him, caught the ball on the right thigh and, without noticeably glancing towards the goal, fired back over his head into the net.

The trickery of Romario: the cold-blooded rifle crack that hallmarked the finishing of Marco van Basten: the great stonings of Maradona... the sheer accumulation of goals from Pelé. He, the king of all players, the score of 1,257 goals in 1,313 first-class games, has tried to answer questions about what occurs in the mind

of a man when he scores such memorable and beautiful goals. Pelé, as involved in the game now as when he emerged as a genius at 17, has never come up with an answer.

Weah's goal did not involve a pass of any kind; no one was on his wavelength. Down the years, Pelé has sought to explain inspiration, but to ask in the first place is ludicrous. The game of football is about mind and muscle and, as Pelé constantly reminds us, about soul.

Perhaps the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, provided the answer before any of them touched the ball when he said: "Inside every man is hidden a child who wants to play." Play on, George Weah, play on.

TOMORROW



Brian Glanville makes his choice from a lifetime of goal-watching

Four Hearts fail to finish farcical red-card game

The air turned blue and a football match was almost asphyxiated. In the 3-0 defeat by Rangers at Ibrox on Saturday, the Hearts of Midlothian defenders, Neil Pointon and Paul Ritchie, were sent off for use of "foul or abusive language" and with their team-mates, Pasquale Bruno and David Weir, already dismissed, the game was on the verge of abandonment.

The visitors were down to seven men and if one more player in their side had been sent packing the match would, under a ruling by Fifa's International Board, have ceased to be valid. Only once before in the history of League football in Scotland has there been a comparable episode. Stranraer were similarly depleted in an away match against Airdrie in December 1994.

Self-possession is soon mislaid in the midst of such mayhem. When Ritchie trooped off, in the 67th minute of the match on Saturday, the Hearts chairman, Chris Robinson, looked as if he was actively seeking to call a halt to the whole affair.

The inevitable Scottish Football Association inquiry will examine his conduct in rushing to the touchline and waving his arms in a manner that suggested he was beckoning the remnants of the Hearts team from the field. A battery of punishments is certain to be trained on the Edinburgh club, whose quartet of culprits now miss the Coca-Cola Cup, with Celtic tomorrow but, on Saturday, the first person to be rebuked was the referee.

The resentment of spectators over the absurd condition to which the game was reduced inevitably identified Gerry Evans as the culprit.

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

After all, he was the man with the wagging cards and it is never difficult to represent an official as a priggish martinet. Compromise might have been possible in one case at Ibrox and an aghast Rangers captain, Richard Gough, pleaded for clemency before the final dismissal.

The offences of Pointon and Ritchie were both brought to Evans's attention by a linesman, Graham Allison, and, in each case, the referee listened gravely to an account of the profanities that had been uttered. Weir had already been booked and his departure was probably unavoidable, but Ritchie had not previously had his name taken.

Evans might, in consequence, have elected to find him guilty only of dissent, with a yellow card sufficient punishment. This official, however, is no prude. A man who earns his living working in an approved school is unlikely to swoon at the sound of a curse. All referees ignore profanities on occasion and Evans has a reputation among his peers for tolerance of excitable footballers.

If he still felt compelled to despatch Ritchie, it can only be because the player's words were repellent enough to leave no scope for leniency. As it

was, the game might have had another ordering off. The clash with Gordon Durie that saw Weir shown the red card also featured, as television evidence demonstrated, some unappealing histrionics by the Rangers forward.

As so often, it was the players, more than the officials, who were guilty of a lack of discretion. The recklessness seemed to flow from Bruno, whose ordering off had an aura of inevitability about it from early in the afternoon. Posturing and displays of machismo typified a man whose mind was not wholly on his work.

He distracted his own team at the first goal, wandering over to stare at Laudrup at a corner kick when he ought to have been hurrying back to the penalty area. The unfustered Dane rolled the ball across and a Hearts defence that had not even begun to make the required arrangements saw Stuart McCall set up Durie for the finish.

From Serie A, in Italy, Bruno brought with him great experience and an extensive disciplinary record. Now he risks becoming a man of gestures rather than deeds. The audience and his relationship with it have turned into obsessions and when he was dismissed Bruno walked off grinning, his arms raised in, presumably, sardonic salute of the crowd.

Hearts are outraged by the proceedings at Ibrox, but, in private, they may eventually come to a realisation that most of the blame lies with themselves. If anyone at Tynecastle still feels tempted by blistering epithets, they could always try directing them at some ill-disciplined players.

Akers keeps his Arsenal team under tight rein

By SARAH FORDE

AMID the managerial upheaval at Highbury, and the revelation by Tony Adams of his drink problem, Arsenal Ladies are "flying the flag for the club", according to Vic Akers, the women's team coach. They did so with a 2-0 win against Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday in only the second women's match to have been played at the ground.

Akers insists strict discipline into his squad, as one of his younger players found out before the match. She wore the wrong tracksuit trousers out of the hotel on the way to the game on Saturday and was promptly made to change — a small indiscretion dealt with firmly by the coach to keep up the good name of the club while the men wallow in uncertainty.

On the pitch, Joanne Broadhurst scored two late goals for Arsenal that leave Liverpool without a point from their first two games under Paul Ashley, their new coach.

Elsewhere, Southampton Saints are the only other team without a point. The South Coast side, promoted this year, were beaten 4-1 by Everton despite taking an early lead. Tranmere Rovers, the other newcomers to the Premier National Division, held Croydon, the champions, to a 3-3 draw. Croydon needed a late penalty equaliser from Hope Powell, the England international. Doncaster Belles, who beat Ilkeston 4-0, are the only team to have won both their opening league games.

Stevenage hanging on to prized asset

By KEITH PUXE

STEVENAGE Borough have turned down a "huge" bid from Bristol Rovers for their leading goalscorer, Barry Hayles. Paul Fairclough, the manager of the Vauxhall Conference champions, would not reveal the exact amount offered by the Nationwide League second division club, but said that it would have "easily beaten" the record fee collected by a non-league club, the £300,000 that Wimbledon paid Barnet for Andy Clarke in 1991.

Fairclough rejected the latest of several inquiries for Hayles, 24, who scored 29 Conference goals last season, hours before his side reached the second qualifying round of the FA Cup on Saturday with a 3-0 victory over Arlesey Town at Hitchin Town's Fishponds Road ground.

The decision was, he said, "proof that we are committed to winning the championship again. It was a huge offer, but we are determined to keep our best players."

Fairclough, though, was more concerned about the fact that Stevenage should have been involved in the FA Cup at all at the weekend. "It was a chore and something that we could have done without," he said.

His comments came six days after the Conference launched its latest bid to force the Football Association to reorganise the Cup qualifying competition. Stevenage were one of 14 Conference teams playing in the first qualifying round on Saturday, and the league believes that it is high time its status was taken into account and its clubs given exemption until the later stages of the competition.

The Premier League and

the Football League would not allow it to happen, and nor should we," Jim Thompson, the Conference president, said. "Bringing in the Conference clubs at the first round proper stage, or the fourth qualifying round, is a logical step. It is not elitism, it is to do with running a professional league."

The FA has so far refused to consider altering what Fairclough described as "antiquated" rules that "penalise successful clubs". Should Stevenage reach the competition proper, he said, it would almost certainly compromise their attempts to win the Conference because of a future backlog.

"I am not too proud to play

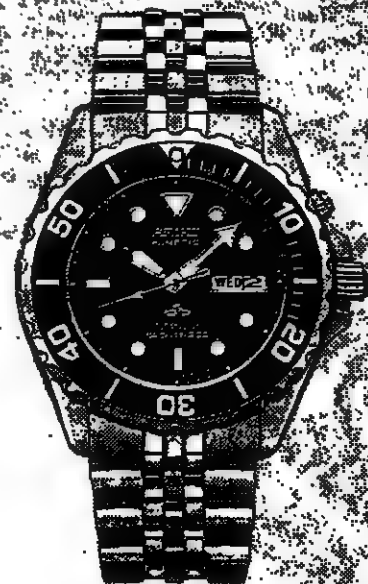
Results and tables 30

teams like Arlesey, who made us work very hard, but having been so successful and having worked so hard, I don't really feel that we should have to go through it."

It was Stevenage's superior fitness that counted against Arlesey, a team containing six former Stevenage players. Their three goals came in the last 20 minutes, Corey Browne scoring twice and John Ugbah getting the other. Hayles, though, was forced to miss the tie because of injury.

With all 14 Conference sides having been drawn away from home, the potential for embarrassment was large. Yet ten of the "minnows" failed to score, and only two Conference sides were inconvenienced by being taken to replays. Gateshead were held by St Helens and Hednesford Town by Wednesfield.

Good-bye battery



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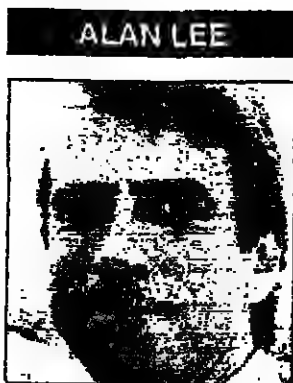
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Derbyshire first to stumble in dash to winning post

One title dream died on Saturday, three more could revert to the harsh reality of mathematics by tonight. With Derbyshire now out of the equation, serious threats in Leicestershire being crowned as British Assurance county champions next weekend depend upon Surrey and Essex, who both have considerable victory assignments today.

As calculators and crystal balls are not available to all, a precis of probabilities follows. Leicestershire, with 272 points banked and a home fixture against Middlesex to come on Thursday, will need no more than a draw and maximum bonus points if neither Surrey nor Essex win their titanic penultimate games.

If Surrey win in Cardiff today, however, they will be back within one point of the leaders, with Worcestershire as their last opponents at the Oval. Victory for Essex, who



Championship Commentary

face a daunting run chase against Sussex, would take them to 265 points, the title still possible if they then beat Glamorgan at Chelmsford. One further, fanciful possibility exists. Kent are well

placed to beat Hampshire at Canterbury today, a result that would raise them to 257 points and, if other contenders fail, second place. They would then go to Bristol on Thursday knowing that they could still be champions if they win and Leicestershire lose.

For those who prefer certainty to conjecture, Derbyshire's romantic challenge is over. The unlikely of all the contenders were eliminated with unemotional professionalism by the team they strove to replace, Warwickshire. About to be stripped of their title, though plainly not their pride, Warwickshire rallied from 84 for five to meet a victory target of 267.

Trevor Penney, ever a man for the lost cause, supervised the recovery with 83 not out and there was a fourth championship half-century this season from England's latest spin bowling hope, Ashley Giles. For Derbyshire, with Dominic

Cork injured and Devon Malcolm malfunctioning, it proved a reverse that was hard to take. "We couldn't throw our punches," their inspirational captain, Dean Jones, said. "But at least we have shown we are becoming competitive."

Indeed they have, and in that they are not alone. This summer is best judged not by Durham, whose self-esteem is so shattered they must expect to lose before each game begins. Better to gauge the championship cricket by the increased number of games running their course, either for positive results in the last few hours or for that recently derided alternative, the draw.

If the overdue introduction of four-day games has succeeded, as even former opponents now concede, in producing tougher cricket, the three points available for a draw this season have been an important adjunct. The top

TOP OF TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	pts
Leics (7)	16	9	1	6	57/272
Surrey (12)	15	8	3	4	50/258
Essex (15)	15	8	3	4	55/249
Derbyshire (14)	16	8	3	5	54/247
Kent (18)	15	8	5	2	47/241
Yorkshire (8)	16	8	5	3	46/227

Points include bonus points and match points from the present round of games. REMAINING FIXTURES (all Sept 19): Leicestershire v Middlesex (Leicester); Surrey v Worcestershire (Oval); Essex v Glamorgan (Chelmsford); Derbyshire v Durham (Durham); Kent v Gloucestershire (Bristol); Yorkshire v Northamptonshire (Northampton).

A draw, however, is of no earthly use to Kent today, for it would end their lingering chance of the title. They have set Hampshire to make 299 and they must bowl them out again, doubtless looking to the remarkable Dean Headley for their lead.

On Saturday, Headley took his third hat-trick of the season, something that has not been achieved in county cricket since 1924, by Charlie Parker of Gloucestershire.

Essex, too, will not be much interested in settling for stalemate today. Sussex have displayed admirable spirit against them at Chelmsford and Vasebert Drakes' century has established a lead of 338, with two wickets left. The Chelmsford pitch remains bland but Graham Gooch and Stuart Law will need to be at their most authoritative if Essex are to win.

This leaves events at Cardiff, where Surrey exceeded

even their own estimates by amassing 471 on a slow, turning pitch. Leading by 107, they then reduced Glamorgan to 94 for three, with victory hopes rising fast, but an unbroken stand of 124 between Steve James and Anthony Cortey has ensured a tense final day on which a draw would leave Surrey 14 points off the pace.

David Morgan has been on the ground throughout the game in his position as chairman of Glamorgan, but it is in his alternative guise, chairing the working party into the formation of an English Cricket Board, that he is soon to become better known.

The report of Morgan's committee was published on Friday and demonstrates nothing more plainly than the futility of the job they must think again. County cricket will stay in its present, overcrowded form for as long as the clubs desire.

next year will be run by a management board, 16 strong and blessed with the size and scope to make swift decisions.

In practice, "all matters of significant importance to the first-class game" will need referring to a different body known cryptically as FCF. This turns out to be a First-Class Forum, consisting of two delegates from each of the 18 counties — in other words, the present constitution of the Test and County Cricket Board by another name.

The counties have therefore won the continued right to exercise their requirements and prejudices, if necessary against the interest of the national game. Anyone daunted enough to expect a bold new world under the new authority must think again. County cricket will stay in its present, overcrowded form for as long as the clubs desire.

CRICKET: WELLS DETERMINED TO TAKE LEAD ROLE AS COUNTY LOOKS TO REGROUP

Sussex happy to turn backs on a summer of turmoil

By IVO TENNANT

THIS has not been a harmonious year for Sussex, afflicted as they have been by a failed drugs test, reported disaffection within the side towards the captain, speculation over the future of their England leg spinner and, not least, the discord that arises from a conspicuous lack of success in all forms of the game. The dressing-room at Hove was once renowned for its forbearance; now, its occupants cannot always tolerate each other.

Few cricketers are more resilient than Alan Wells, who is having to cope with his benefit season as well as the captaincy, which he has held since 1992 and is fully intent on retaining. A prolific run-scorer in county cricket, he did not play for England until last summer — and then was out first ball.

"To go from a Test debut one year to turning out for the old codgers in the Masters the next year must be some kind of record," Wells said as his county tried to prevent a fifth successive championship defeat at Chelmsford.

"If I felt that anybody else could do a better job, then I would step down. If I was looking over my shoulder all the time, I would not be able to concentrate properly. But I am more suited to being captain than anybody in the present side. We have had a bad run but we could easily have won three or four more championship matches. The four-day game is unforgiving."

According to Nigel Bett, the Sussex secretary, Wells has the backing of the club's committee, although a decision over his retention as captain might not be made until the spring. "If I believed all the rumours I hear, nobody would be playing for us next season," Bett said.

Overriding all other events has been the ban — and subsequent dismissal — imposed on Ed Giddins, for drug-taking that was not performance-enhancing. The

need for discipline within any sports organisation is paramount, but then the pop group Oasis, who are supposedly the icons of the age and who have a considerably wider and more impressionable audience, have openly admitted taking drugs. And at least Giddins did not expectorate when Hove was his stage.

Nor, it should be stressed, was he the first Sussex player to indulge in this manner. Australian joints were the favoured noxious substance of one of their former cricketers.

Giddins failed his drugs-test at Tumblebridge Wells, of all places, at the end of May. The ensuing speculation as to the identity of the player, coupled with the Test and County Cricket Board's refusal to confirm his name even when it was freely and accurately discussed in the media, hardly unified the side.

There are colleagues who thought his punishment harsh and others who are contemplating their own futures, regardless of his summary dismissal. Danny Law, another promising fast bowler, is one.

Durham, whose batting needs bolstering, have a regard for the talents of Martin Speight, not least, perhaps, because he was at university there. He is, though, expected to stay with Sussex. There is considerable conjecture over the future of Ian Salisbury, to whom Sussex have offered a five-year contract in an attempt to prevent him moving to Surrey, or, indeed, any other county.

Salisbury was omitted from both England tour parties and intends spending the winter away from the game. "I am 26 now and so have a big decision to make over my future, and I will take a long time thinking everything over," he said. "But I get on OK with Alan Wells and have not even spoken to Surrey."

"I reckon all this speculation



Salisbury, offered a five-year contract by Sussex, will think long and hard about his future

arose because during Guildford week I had a drink with Tony Pigott, who I used to live with before he moved to the Oval."

Wells believes that if Sussex can strengthen their batting, then Salisbury, who is out of contract at the end of the season, can be persuaded to stay. "We are looking at which players around the country are not being retained and which batsmen

will be wanting to move counties, but there is no point in going for a 37 or 38-year-old such as Neil Taylor," he said. "It is important to look to the future."

This speculation about Ian, Martin Speight and Ed Giddins not getting on with me can be summed up in one word: rubbish. We have spoken about this in a team meeting. At times I have been

criticised for being too pig-headed, but I have been less strong-willed this year. I have been more concerned with listening to comment from the junior as well as the senior players.

"I still have ambitions for the side, have two more years on my contract and obviously would like to carry on being captain. I am learning all the time."

Harris emerges from quality street

Simon Wilde profiles the latest promising cricket recruit from a renowned village in Derbyshire

It is one of Yorkshire cricket's proudest boasts and there are a few — that two of the greatest all-rounders the game has known, George Hirst and Wilfred Rhodes, both of whom batted right-handed and bowled left, were born in the same village, Kirkheaton, near Huddersfield.

Derbyshire may soon tell of an even more unlikely coincidence. Assuming Andrew Harris, who has been chosen for the England A tour of Australia next month, lives up to his considerable promise, three of the leading bowlers in the county's history will have all resided in the very same street — Conduit Street in Tintwhistle, a village nestling in the hills beneath the county's north-west border.

Harris was preceded there by Sam Cadman and Bert "Dusty" Rhodes, respectively twelfth and thirteenth in the county's all-time list of wicket-takers. Cadman first played for the club in 1900, Rhodes in 1937, the year after Derbyshire won their first and, after the defeat by Warwickshire on Saturday, only championship.

Strangely, the three share not only the same dwelling-place but, like Hirst and Rhodes, the same means of destruction with the ball. Each was, or is, a right-arm fast-medium bowler, although "Dusty" Rhodes resuscitated a youthful flirtation with leg-spin when Derbyshire were short of slow bowlers after the Second World War.

Harris, 23, is the liveliest of the trio. He has generated enough pace this season to bowl some established batsmen and Karl Krikken, the Derbyshire wicket-keeper, says that he hits the gloves as hard as anyone at the club, Devon Malcolm included. He also has the ability to move the ball either way and is commendably accurate.

Harris's origins are a source of pride to him. He is proud of his village, where he has lived with his parents all his life, and of his county. His county is equally proud of him, players and officials at the club saluting him as a model young man.

Harris started his career with the Tintwhistle club, where his father was chairman, before being picked up by Alan Hill, the county's former coach, and put into the colts side.

Although he has sprung to attention this season with 44 wickets in ten championship matches, he had left his mark during a handful of appearances in the previous two seasons.

He took a wicket with his second delivery in first-class cricket — and Alec Stewart's at that — and unleashed a staggeringly fast and hostile spell in an AXA Equity & Law League against Hampshire at Derby. Kim Barnett described it as the finest he had ever seen in one-day cricket — bar one by Michael Holding. "He channels all his aggression into letting the ball go," said one friend.

His rise has not been plain sailing, though. Two years ago he looked by no means certain to make it as a professional, being short on physical strength and suffering from shin splints. Last year Les Stilleman, now the Derbyshire coach but then touring with Australia A, set eyes on him for the first time and wondered whether he was looking at an over-eager trialist.

"He was trying too hard to bowl fast," Stilleman said. "Giffchrist and Love just murdered him. He was in desperate need of a slower ball." Although he worked on his fitness last winter, Harris has missed more matches this season with a strained side.

Stilleman is anxious that not too much is expected of Harris. "The A tour is an experimental thing," he said. "The selectors believe there are things in these players worth having a look at, to see whether they should be groomed."

"I think Harris is as good a young bowler as there is but you will get no predictions from me. Let's see how he handles the pressure."

Like Cadman, who played for the county until he was 49, and Rhodes, who did so until 37, one of Harris's greatest attributes is his willingness to bowl, as he demonstrated against Warwickshire, when Derbyshire were reduced to three fit bowlers.

He was rewarded with his county cap on the first day; the next step is to break the mould and add to it an England cap, something no resident of Conduit Street has yet achieved.

Why be a spectator when you can now be a commentator?

Just a few days into the new season and already it looks like the lads are going to need help. They'll need a leader with vision. Someone who knows who to buy, who to sell, who to play and who to drop, who can change their current system, formation and that garish new strip.

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ATHLETICS: DRAMATIC FINISH SEES SCOTTISH RUNNER WIN GREAT NORTH RUN

McColgan rewarded for victory charge

By JOHN GOODBODY

LIZ McCOLGAN has produced many epic performances during her career. Over 10,000 metres, there was her 1988 Olympic silver medal and her 1991 world title. In the big city marathons, she has triumphed in New York and London.

However, in few of her runs has she shown such courage as at the Bupa Great North Run on Tyneside yesterday, when she cut down a 50 yard lead over the last mile of the half-marathon distance of 13.1 miles to beat Esther Kiplagat, of Kenya.

As the pair sped along the seafront, in the sunshine of South Shields, McColgan seemed doomed to endure another defeat after the disappointment of the Atlanta Olympics when she suffered an insect bite, an infected ankle and finished sixteenth in the marathon.

However, the Scot roused herself in her familiar style, head bent slightly forward, eyes concentrated on the back of the Kenyan who had drifted away from her and Yvonne Murray at eight miles.

Gradually, as the pair ran parallel to the North Sea towards the finish, McColgan closed the gap. However, there were still 20 yards between them with a quarter of a mile to go. Kiplagat, realising from the cheers of the crowd that she was being caught, tried to accelerate, but her legs began to wobble and McColgan swept past her with a 100

yards left, to win in 70min 28sec with the Kenyan eight seconds further back.

McColgan said: "The crowd lifted me but I did not know when I was going to catch her. I just put my head down and, over the last mile, I felt I was sprinting, sprinting all the time."

"Nothing will make up for the disappointment of Atlanta. However I decided that when the infection cleared up I would get training again and do some racing which is what I like."

Murray, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, who has been injured almost all season, finished fourth in 72min 25sec. She said that she felt fine until eight miles when, coming away from a feeding station, both her calves began to suffer from cramp.

The men's race was not quite so dramatic, although Paul Evans threatened to make it so for a few minutes. Along the seafront, he launched an attack on Benson Masaya, the Kenyan, who had won the race three times previously and yesterday established a 100-yard lead with a mile to go.

Unlike Kiplagat, Masaya had judged his pace perfectly and maintained his controlled style to finish well ahead of Paul Evans, who was third in the London marathon last April. Masaya's winning time was 68min 45sec while Evans finished in 69min 55sec.



McColgan salutes the crowd as she crosses the line in South Shields yesterday

MOTORCYCLING: SEE-SAW STRUGGLE IN CATALONIA GRAND PRIX GOES WAY OF AUSTRALIAN MASTER

Doohan basks in acclaim for third world title

MICHAEL DOOHAN, from Australia, took his third consecutive 500cc world championship by finishing second behind Carlos Checa, of Spain, in the Catalonia Grand Prix in Montmeló yesterday. "It's unbelievable, at the beginning of the year I just didn't think this was possible," Doohan said.

For Checa, a local man, it was the first win of a promising career and some compensation after falling when he was leading the race last year. He

received the race trophy from King Juan Carlos of Spain, who is a keen motorcycle enthusiast.

Doohan said that Checa's move had helped him. "Checa took the lead and that was good - it took the pressure off, meaning I could finish lower down," he said.

Doohan, who had only needed to finish second to secure the title, fulfilled his pre-race promise of sticking to Alex Criville, who began the day

as the only rider who could catch him in the championship.

Luca Cadalora, of Italy, was first away from the starting grid, but was unable to contain Checa, who took the lead on the third lap and never looked back. Behind him, Criville and Doohan, on Hondas, were involved in a battle that saw them exchange places nine times.

Although Doohan could have allowed Criville to take second and

himself finish fourth, he pulled out the stops and finished 0.049sec in front. It was a fitting climax to a season dominated by the rivalry - and occasional conflict - between them.

With two races remaining, Criville's performance guaranteed him second place in the championship, the best position recorded by a Spaniard. "It would have been nice to win at home, but Checa went really well," Criville said.

SWIMMING

BOA puts an end to drug-test challenge

By CRAIG LORD

THE British Olympic Association (BOA) has dropped plans to appeal on behalf of Nick Gillingham, the swimmer denied a bronze medal in the 200 metres breaststroke in Atlanta after the disqualification of Andrei Korneev - the Russian who returned a positive drugs test - was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Gillingham described as "pathetic" the BOA's argument that the pre-Games agreement all the competitors had to sign obliged them to adhere to any decision of the CAS and deprived them of any right of appeal. Gillingham, fourth in the final, said: "The CAS report clearly indicates that at a Games where we were told technology would catch all cheats, the Russians have got away with it by staying one step ahead of the Medical Code."

Korneev finished third in the final. He then tested positive for Bromantan, a substance used by at least three other Russians in Atlanta, that is said to be a psychostimulant that helps to reduce feelings of fatigue.

The CAS overturned the disqualification of Korneev on the grounds that the evidence about the properties of Bromantan was "not sufficient to establish" that the drug was covered by the Medical Code of the International Olympic Committee to the "high degree of satisfaction necessary".

However, its own report appears to point in the opposite direction. It describes the circumstances surrounding the use of Bromantan as "suspicious", accepting that there was "covert use" of the drug before the Games and that Russian scientific papers "would reasonably lead a scientific reader to the conclusion that the substance possessed stimulant qualities".

It also notes that the Russians denied taking Bromantan even after tests had proven otherwise and states that "in view of the probability that Bromantan can be indeed classified as a stimulant, its use should be discontinued forthwith".

In a letter to Gillingham, Dick Palmer, general secretary of the BOA, says that the swimmer's fate was "an indirect effect" and that the judgment is "not open to direct challenge".

Fatigue takes its toll of all the Presidents men

JOHN HOPKINS

TV Action Replay

With sniffer dogs and secret service men and limousines that appeared to stretch from Washington DC to New York City preceding an appearance by President Clinton, and talk of how Arnold Palmer had toyed with the idea of entering politics, the Presidents Cup, from Lake Manassas in Virginia, on Sky Sports over the weekend began to resemble an American election campaign more than a golf match for a cup that does not contain an apostrophe in its title.

Fortunately, the electioneering talk never got so far as to suggest Palmer for President, though Arnie did briefly consider politics 30 years ago, an idea as daft as suggesting that Clinton, a modest 15-handicapper, should turn professional.

The Presidents Cup turned out to be a golf event modelled on Ryder Cup lines, between the best professionals from outside the United States, excluding Europe, and the best Americans.

Bruce Critchley and Ewen Murray, the commentators, work hard at the banter between them, putting us in mind of Peter Alliss and the great Henry Longhurst many years ago. Critchley is Longhurst, the urbane *bon vivant* type. Murray is Alliss, a hardened former professional, whose knowledgeable views are formed while peering through a haze of cigarette smoke and presented in a gritty, down-to-earth way that suggests that his background did not involve public school.

Of the sports shown on television, it has always seemed that golf has been one of the best. The primary colours are captured brilliantly and the cameras can zoom in close enough to read the manufacturer's name on a ball.

Furthermore, golf has the natural longevity necessary for commentators to display their plus-handicap knowledge of the game. There are even occasional darts of humour. Sit comfortably and compare this with the dubious pleasure of paying admission and tramping around for 4½ hours behind a group of

players and seeing little more than the occasional stroke.

For all these advantages, however, the sport is not without its disadvantages. The excitement of a match can be hard to follow amid a welter of images.

On the screen is an excellent close-up of Nick Price hitting a long iron to a green. With a bit of luck, a graphic has told viewers which hole it is and what the score is. Suddenly, the picture changes to another player putting on another green on another hole. Immediately you need to know who is this, what is he doing, how does he stand? Often, the commentators were not able to keep pace with the changes.

At one point during the foursomes on the first day, Ken Brown was talking about the difficulty Corey Pavin was going to have with the next shot because his ball had a speck of mud on it.

"This will accentuate the spin and make the ball's flight less predictable," Brown said authoritatively. The trouble was that it was not Pavin's shot - it was Phil Mickelson's, his partner.

Speaking as a golf writer who mentioned Guinness at an Irish Open sponsored by Murphy's, I admit that highlighting mistakes by others is a dangerous business. Perhaps one should suggest that these and other *faux pas* were the result of sheer hard work.

When David Livingston signed off on Friday night saying they would be back the next day at 7.00am he was so tired he could not tell his arm from his leg. Equally surely, it was fatigue or jet lag or both that caused Murray to talk during the first series of foursomes about how no matches had reached the 18th green - and five minutes later to have to acknowledge that two matches had gone to that green in the morning's foursomes.

These and other selections beg the question: why did Critchley, Murray and Brown have to put in such arduous stints with the microphone in their hands - five or six hours each day? They deserve a long-service medal.

MOTOR RALLYING: FLYING FINN LEAVES CHASING PACK STUCK IN THE MUD

Makinen speeds towards first championship

TOMMI MAKINEN, of Finland, moved closer to being crowned world champion after mastering atrocious conditions to build a comfortable lead on the second day of the Rally of Australia yesterday.

After heavy rain in the seventh round of the championship, organisers had to cancel two stages when four of the first six cars were stranded at a river crossing.

Makinen sailed through unscathed in his Mitsubishi, however, and will become world champion for the first time unless positions change during the third and final day.

"I don't understand why the others aren't faster," Makinen said, after opening up a lead of 25sec. "I was driving quite safely, smoothly and nicely."

Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, one of only two drivers with a mathematical chance of depriving Makinen of the title, forced his Subaru into second place ahead of the Ford of Carlos Sainz. That was despite stopping in the river on the fourteenth stage, then running into electrical trouble that left his car with smoke because of the amount of water it had taken aboard.

The British driver, Colin McRae, having already seen the world championship he won for the first time last November slip away, had another disappointing day. He chose the hardest available tyres, but that meant his Subaru had no grip at first and he skated off into the bushes on a fast, muddy right-hand corner for a few seconds in the afternoon.

SPORTS LETTERS

More serene surroundings

From Mr Russell Ralph

Sir, It was with some trepidation that I purchased a ticket for the NatWest Trophy final. My reasons were twofold. 1. Any Essex supporter following the county's recent one-day fortunes must have realised that the form book would have needed to be substantially rewritten for Essex to have any chance of victory.

2. The conduct of some of the people attending the final left a lot to be desired and drew comment from Alan Lee in his report (September 9).

From attending the final and watching highlights of other prestige cricket matches, it is fairly obvious that the authorities seem prepared to tolerate unacceptable social behaviour at such fixtures in return for substantial gate receipts. Are there other cricket devotees who believe that spectators can still be part of a big match atmosphere, celebrate their team's success and

Clay shooting under threat

From Mr M. Gurney-Berrett

Sir, If Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane tragedy recommends a handgun ban, not only will handguns be affected but also shotguns, as used in clay pigeon shooting.

Both the Government's and the Labour Party's proposals to the Cullen inquiry include measures designed to severely restrict access to shotguns as well as handguns. These proposals include the reclassification of shotguns as Class I firearms under the Firearms Act and the banning of the ownership of shotguns for people who live within city boundaries.

These proposals, as with a handgun ban, would do nothing to prevent crime and would effectively destroy clay pigeon shooting as a sport. To use Class I firearms requires access to a Ministry of Defence approved Class I range. There are only two Class I ranges in the country that have facilities for clay pigeon shooting, one at Coombe Mar-

Blot on Lord's

From the Rev R. A. Mason

Sir, As a member of MCC for over 25 years, I write to urge my fellow members to defeat the committee's proposal for a new media centre at Lord's (report, September 7).

One of the greatest attractions of the ground is its intimate and rural feel and to that feeling the beautiful sweep of trees visible at the Nursery End is a main contributor. Indeed, for a member seated in the pavilion the sight of the trees over the Compton and Edrich stands forms an almost perfect English background to the cricket.

Into the glorious and unique vista the committee wishes to insert a tasteless and vulgar construction, strongly resembling a cartoon character's teeth.

We are told that the media centre must be placed behind the bowler's arm, but the media, like all of us, can judge the movement of the ball not from the television monitor. The television camera, sited between the Compton and Edrich stands, has never been a problem and could continue to provide ideal "bowler's arm" viewing to the media wherever they are situated.

The committee further argues that facilities for the media at Lord's are inadequate and that unless they become exemplary before the World Cup in 1999, great shame will fall on MCC and Lord's Ground. It is possible that the media facilities need refurbishing, but to construct an ugly new media centre at the most sensitive visual point on the ground will bring greater and more lasting shame and ridicule on all concerned.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. MASON,
Prittlewell Vicarage,
489 Victoria Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

From Ms Amelia Jane Taylor
Sir, As a keen participant in rugby union embarking on her eighth season, I read with interest "Why women don't make the back page (Media and Marketing, September 11).

A fellow player, who is also a cricketer, told me that it is due to women that overarm bowling was introduced; because of their petticoats they could not bowl underarm. It could therefore be argued that they created their own version of cricket and that men are now rivals in the female game!

Further, how many men have noticed that one of their favourite sporting magazines, *Rugby World*, has a female editor?

Yours faithfully,
AMELIA TAYLOR,
13 Colehill Gardens, SW6.

From Dr Valerie Goldberg
Sir, The minimum number of overs to be bowled each day in the county cricket championship was reduced this year from 110 to 104. If the object was to reduce the amount of overrunning, it appears to have failed.

For example, on a recent day at the Oval the "32 overs remaining" mark was not reached until 4.10 even though the match started at 10.30 and tea should have been taken at 3.40.

Perhaps we have reached the stage when the authorities should either consider playing penalties as well as financial, otherwise we may well go down to 90 overs a day or less, or they should encourage counties to play more spin bowlers.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE GOLDBERG,
6 Hollycroft Avenue,
Wembley, Middlesex.

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SAILING

Todd turns tide with unexpected victory

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN CHERBOURG

TONY TODD'S Dubois 50, *Eagle*, which won the Round the Island Race this year and took Class 1 and overall CHS honours in the 1993 Fastnet, finished off the Royal Ocean Racing Club season with a convincing Channel Handicap win in the Solent to Cherbourg Race this weekend.

Eagle was second across the finishing line in the outer harbour here early on Saturday, behind Johnnie Caulcutt's old Whitbread maxi *Maxima*, followed by Richard Balding's elegant Swan 99, *Dark Swan*, and Derek Waiter's First 42.5, *Pointe North*.

Despite carrying the fading north-north easterly breeze all the way to the finish, Caulcutt was demoted to fourth on corrected time, with *Dark Swan* second and *Pointe North* third. For Todd it was a particularly happy and unexpected win, coming at the beginning of his stag weekend and following some probably unprintable celebrations organised for him on board *Eagle* before the fleet left the Squadron line on Friday night.

Results 37

"This was the stag weekend. We didn't expect a victory but we'll take it like men," Nigel Musto, who was among the crew, said. Like all the other boats in the 33-strong fleet, the team on *Eagle* had found the flagging breeze frustrating. It started north-north west as the yachts headed out towards the forts with the sun setting behind them, but then swung more north-easterly once they were offshore and spinaker-reaching across the Channel.

"It was just on the edge," Musto said. "Sometimes it wouldn't. Another few knots of breeze would have been a real blast. But it was easy calls all the way through." After sailing under clear skies with a marvellous starscape, complete with shooting stars and satellite traces, the trickiest part of the race was the entrance into Cherbourg itself.

Apart from the earliest finishers, the bulk of the fleet found themselves approaching the Fort de L'Ouest at sunrise with a strong east-going tide running and the breeze diminishing, just when

some of them needed to make up against the current. At least two crews got it wrong and took what must have seemed an age to creep up against the tide, as the competition sailed in and up to the finish inside the outer harbour.

As Stuart Quarrie, who was navigating and calling tactics on Don Moreton's Humphreys one-off, *Old Mother Gun*, said: "There were really only two issues: when you put in your westerly and how you actually approached Cherbourg. The key thing was not to be too far east."

The CHS Class 2 winner was Martin Pearson's Dehler 33, *Ruthless*, with Tony Cox and Sarah Jane Cook's Stuart 36, *The Red Dragon*, first in Class 3. Peter Rutter's Andrieu 30, *Quokka*, took the honours in Class 4. Several yachts in the running for overall first prize for the RORC season were not at the start on Friday but none lost their top position as a result.

In CHS Class 1 the Bashford Howison 41s surrendered the top spot to David Walters's J/99, *Jackdaw*, with the BH41s *Hawk*, owned by Nigel Bramwell, and *Wolf*, owned by Glyn Williams, second and third. Class 2 was won by David Geaver's east coast-based J/35 *Fiona VII*, with Stephanie Merry's Humphreys 34, *Roller Skate*, first in Class 3 and *Quokka* first in Class 4. In the IMS divisions *Hawk* took division A, with *Fiona VII* winning the B group. In IMS C *The Red Dragon* beat Tom and Vicky Jackson's everlastig *Sunstone*, which stopped racing after the Commodore's Cup.

It has been a good season for the RORC with two challenging races: the Myth of Malham, in May, when two-thirds of the fleet retired after beating for hours into a 30-knot north-easterly and a similarly blowy Solent to Le Havre race at the end of August, when only 11 boats finished.

The latter stages of the season, however, have been overshadowed by the death of the RORC committee member, Duncan Munro-Kerr, who fell off his yacht, *Trocar*, during the Cowes-Rotterdam Race in August. Munro-Kerr, whose body was found three weeks later, was buried at the weekend.



Gianni Bugno, of the MG team, leads briefly during the Tour of Spain. Nicola Minali, of Italy, won the ninth stage from Jerez to Cordoba yesterday while his countryman, Fabio Baldato, retained his overall lead. Results, page 37

Boys schooled in weighting game

By John Goodbody

WEIGHT categories are commonplace in so many sports that it is curious that they have been tried so rarely in rugby union. For young boys learning the game, it seems sensible to organise tournaments in which youngsters are divided not only by age but also by weight.

Beeston Hall Prep School, in Norfolk, yesterday staged just such a seven-a-side event, the success of which can be judged from the fact that the 28 competing schools came from as far away as Scotland. Boys were split into two categories: under 7st and under 11st, and under 9st and under 13st.

The weight limits have been increased from 6st stone and 8st stone this year because prep school boys have increased in size since the tournament began in 1990. Its popularity has demonstrated that it fulfils a definite need.

Ray Milner, the assistant secretary to the English Schools' Rugby Football



Union, said that some prep schools have expressed concern when their boys come up against "monsters".

"You can occasionally get an older boy who is very strong and mature and he could cause damage," he said. "We are very conscious of the need for safety."

The exceptionally mature boy can also be detrimental to the team ethos - what Milner terms the "give-it-to-Joe attitude of the rest of the side".

"When boys get older, many of the bigger ones stop growing so fast," he said. "It is at prep schools that the prob-

lem seems to occur, and we are looking at weight categories with interest."

John Elder, the headmaster at Beeston Hall, near Cromer, said: "It is important that boys feel confident about playing the game, confidence means so much. There are, therefore, no excuses in a tournament like this that you are playing against giants."

He believes that staging a seven-a-side event on the dry pitches of September is more valuable for teaching the game than if it were held in the mud of late winter.

"The whole idea of rugby is to handle the ball," he said. "It also helps schools to look at their potential before they start the 15-a-side game."

Since Beeston have lost only three first XV fixtures in the past two seasons and yesterday beat Edinburgh Academy 24-0 in the under 9st / under-13 final, it is clearly a policy that works.

One Beeston Hall boy who was unable to play yesterday was Andrew Robertson. He is

only 12, but weighs 9st stone. He was not annoyed. "The rules are good. It gives more boys the opportunity to play rugby," he said.

Astin Jessop, a referee yesterday and the master in charge of rugby at The Leys, in Cambridge, makes the point that, in adult rugby, a 12 stone scrum half, as he was, would still be two-thirds of the body weight of an 18 stone prop forward. However, in schoolboy rugby, a 5 stone scrum half would be only half the weight of a 10 stone forward. "You can get one very large boy who will skew the whole game," he said.

Campbell Patterson, the headmaster of Edinburgh Academy, said: "The safety aspect is critical, but in addition, of all the seven-a-side tournaments in which we play, this is the one where the purest rugby takes place. People come down from Scotland for this event for that reason and because it is such a friendly competition."

Results, page 37

Wembley gets ground for optimism

Two years ago Wembley was in severe danger of being consigned to the dustbin of history. The grand old stadium, for most of the century the holy grail of English football, was looking increasingly shabby. Its creaking infrastructure was more suited to meeting the needs of spectators in the 1920s than the 1990s. The England football team found itself playing internationals in a curiously passionless, half-empty ground.

It was all a far cry from Wembley's glory days - the White Horse Cup Final, when a lone policeman cleared an overenthusiastic 120,000 crowd from the pitch in 1923; the Olympics in 1948; and Wembley's crowning moment, hosting the World Cup final of 1966.

For the first time since it was built, Wembley's right to call itself the home of football was coming under fire. English clubs were imaginatively rebuilding and renovating their stadiums to meet the requirements of the Taylor Report. Plans for rival stadiums were being drawn up across the country as ambitious city councils sought to attract leading sporting events.

To compound Wembley's embarrassment, the holding company that owned the ground was teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. The management had embarked on an overelaborate expansion spree in the late 1980s, buying everything from catering facilities to discos.

When the recession hit, the company found itself with £150 million of debt it could no longer service. In a desperate attempt to escape from trouble, the company set an unfavourable corporate record by issuing 5.5 billion shares.

At the beginning of 1995 Wembley resembled a lower-league football club: run by discredited management and only kept afloat by the support of the company's bankers. The company had failed to pay a dividend to its shareholders since 1992 and had not made a profit since 1990.

The turnaround since the nadir of the stadium's fortunes has been remarkable. The old management led by the long-standing chairman, Sir Brian Wilson, has left to be replaced by a tough, no-nonsense board with experience of mounting corporate recovery.

A deal with the company's bankers has enabled Wembley to cut its debt drastically. The share price has been steadily rising and, on Friday, the company announced its first profit for six years.

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



The financial recovery has been matched by the return of the Wembley roar as full houses watched England's progress in the European championship. Wembley's new-found confidence has resulted in ambitious plans for redevelopment that have been submitted to the Sports Council as Wembley battles with Manchester to become the site of the new national sports stadium and win £100 million of lottery funding.

The new £170 million stadium complex designed by the leading architect, Sir Norman Foster, includes a piazza behind the stadium, bigger than St Peter's in Rome, where crowds can watch sport on a giant video screen.

The stadium can be turned 90 degrees to face north/south, curing the television shadow problem that has ruined many a Cup Final game.

The famous twin towers will be moved to form a gateway to the stadium and seats inside the ground will have personal video screens so that spectators can watch action replays. In short, Wembley is aiming to create an environment suitable for hosting the World Cup finals in 2000 and even the Olympics in 2001.

Wembley's case has been strengthened by its growing experience of handling leading sporting events. The Atlanta Olympics have shown that the quality of facilities is only part of running a successful tournament. It also needs to be supported by military-style organisation. Wembley has proved that it can efficiently handle the leading matches in the European championship and, just as importantly given this country's unhappy track record, safely.

The company has also been providing advice abroad - to French authorities of the 1998 World Cup - and is part of the consortium bidding for the Sydney Olympics in 2000. When the Sports Council finally makes its decision later this year, with all due respect to Manchester, it should be Wembley that rejoins the premier league of world sporting venues.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SATURDAY'S RACING RESULTS

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Rebecca Stephens knows how to climb but needed canoeing, riding and biking for a real challenge



Sir Ranulph Fiennes relaxes after a hard climb

You could almost call it enjoying yourself

I am no racer. I never have been. So when I found myself among a large crowd about to launch itself into a 330-mile orienteering charge across the wilds of Canada's Pacific Range mountains, at first I wondered what I was doing there.

The skills expected of competitors in this so-called Eco-Challenge — a sort of adventure race — included canoeing, white-water rafting, riding, mountaineering and mountain-biking. Now admittedly, I have climbed Everest, but until a couple of months ago I had neither canoe nor ridden my bike outside Fulham. I had ridden horses as a child but not enthusiastically. During the previous fortnight I had been lucky enough to find a superb riding instructor and been given a few lessons. White-water rafting I would have to leave to chance. I felt as if I was entering exams without having done my homework, and on arrival at Whistler Resort in British Columbia I felt worse. This was North America and the majority of the 75 mixed-sex teams of five were American. Their collective confidence and sea of tanned, muscled legs disturbed me deeply. What's more, this was televised sport for the US Discovery Channel. The Americans cheered, chanted and boxed the air in unison on command. We Brits just stood aghast.

I had been invited to take part by Dr Mike Stroud, the polar explorer, who had competed in last year's Eco-Challenge in Utah. Ours was an interesting team. As well as Mike's polar partner, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, and old Karimor mountain-running chum Dr David Smith, Mike had taken the unprecedented step of inviting his 70-year-old dad Vic, a retired industrial chemist, as a sort of "thank you" for introducing him to the hills when he was a boy. His reasoning was that if Helen Klein, a 72-year-old American woman, could complete the course last year (which she did), then there was no reason why Stroud senior should not do the same.

The first leg was "ride and run". We had two horses between the five of us for a distance of 22 miles along the bank of the Lillooet River. If the night before I had winced at the enforced joviality of such an event, now I was revelling in it. At the start line were 150 horses and 225 runners, early-morning mist heavy in the valley, mountains all around. The horses pranced excitedly. This was thrilling.

Vic and I got the horses and we soon found a rhythm. No cantering allowed, just trotting. I felt guilty, of course, that I should be on horseback while the guys ran alongside, but then they liked running (so I told myself) and Vic and I had taken lessons especially. It was the best preparation I did, learning from an experienced long-distance rider who believed in expending as little



energy as possible. Relax, that was the key.

Finally it was time to hand the horses back to their wranglers and to cross the Lillooet River. It was fast-moving and had that blue-grey opaqueness of a river that has flowed straight off a glacier. It was perhaps 60 yards wide. "Would you cross this," I asked myself, "even if there were something tantalising on the other side, such as a pub and the promise of a cold beer?" The answer was clearly: "No."

And yet we did. Mike, then Ran, then David, then Vic threw themselves in headlong with their rucksacks in their hands. When I plunged in myself, the cold stole my breath and on adrenalin alone I struck frantically for the opposite bank. It was a while before I realised that something was amiss. The current had swept Vic downstream and in a flash Mike was after him, dragging him to the shallows, near freezing.

Ran put it well when questioned by the ubiquitous film crew. "Team dynamics," he said, "they're great. Vic tries to drown himself and we don't have to do anything. Mike's in

there. Automatic." Hardly another word was spoken. Stoic stock, the Strouds.

There was a brief respite. Each team had a support crew of two: in our case Mo, who had assisted Ran and Mike in various chilly wildernesses around the world, and her daughter Moira. They made a welcoming sight, bearing dry clothes and hot water for drinks.

The next leg was to take us into the mountains. A couple of days should crack it, we thought, and packed freeze-dried rations accordingly. Our rucksacks were heavy. The mandatory kit — radio, flares and smoke bombs — filled half a sack alone, then there were the sleeping bags, ice-axes, crampons and so on.

Adjusting to our new loads, we climbed 2,000ft in blazing heat along a logging trail and into the darkness of coniferous forest.

We were lost almost immediately, by which I mean we were in dense undergrowth with no sign of anything resembling the promised "poorly flagged trail". This, we were to learn, was intermittent.

It was North. West's overall of One Spade was sound — you don't need much in the way of high cards to intervene at the one level if you have a half-way decent suit. In particular, when you bid spades it cuts out your LHO's heart bid. Here, if West had passed I had an easy One Heart response. Over One Spade I had an awkward choice; some would bid Two Spades immediately, but I think that bid should only be used if you have no obvious alternative. Duplicate players will recognise that North has a standard negative double of One Spade, but at rubber bridge the double is for penalties.

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Canoeing was the next game. We launched two boats — two people in one, three in the other — into Downtown Lake at 11pm and canoeed for four hours, around flats and over log boom, in the dim light of a full moon, then carried the boats for another three hours before launching them at dawn on a second, far longer stretch of water: Carpenter Lake.

We were on that lake all day. It went on, and on, and on. 50 miles in total. It was hot. We were tired and for the first time in my life, I hallucinated. We were all at it: elephants, cartoon Snoopies, you name it, they were there in the mountains and water all around us. I begged Mike for an hour's

snore at midday but he wouldn't have it. So I went for a quick dip instead, which kept me awake for at least five minutes. It didn't really surprise me when, that evening, Mike declared once again that we should travel through the night, this time on our smart new mountain bikes. The hallucinations continued: big polystyrene architectural models in the clouds this time. On several occasions, pushing my bike up an absurdly long hill, I woke myself up as I veered into a bush. At three in the morning enough was declared enough, and guiltily we collapsed for a couple of hours.

And then it rained. The last stretch was about 30 miles on metalled roads, fortunately

tently to be the story for the following four days. But for the moment we needed rest. We found the perfect spot: a mossy glade perched high on a precipitous face. We threw a log over the edge and listened to it rumble into the depths below. We lay down our sleeping bags and slept. I kept an ice-axe at my side in case bears appeared.

It was quite tough, this mountainous leg of the course. The forest was dense with slide alder — lethal on any sort of slope — and devil's claw. Plants and insects alike attacked bare and covered limbs indiscriminately. The climbs were steep, temperatures soaring to 40C. But if ever Vic, as the old man among us, apologised for travelling slowly, we answered honestly that we were delighted.

It was beautiful country. There were sweeping snowfields, meadows of lupins and hillsides thick with sagebrush, edelweiss and alpine asters. At the top of one such hill we learned that Helen Klein, back for another challenge, had sadly been forced to withdraw. But we were proud to be still going strong with a man who could now claim to be the oldest player in the race.

Our spirits were high. In the intense heat one day Mike turned, sweat pouring off his body: "It could almost be considered fun, this," he said, grinning broadly as another branch swiped him across the chops. Each person played their role. Ran, tall and strong, hurried himself at the undergrowth to make a trail for us to follow. David's navigation led us precisely to a lone log on which to cross a river. And Vic continued to throw himself at scree slope, glacier and forest with an energy that belied his years, while Mike kept a watchful eye.

We crossed many glacial streams. But the sight of Mike supporting his father as they crossed the flow of one stream together in the fading light, aided by a ski stick, epitomised the spirit of the whole trip.

We arrived at the next checkpoint hungry and tired but elated. Little did we realise that the real fun was about to start. Mike had it all planned. Until now we had enjoyed the luxury of several good nights' kip. But if we were to make it to the next checkpoint on time, we must continue nonstop.

Canoeing was the next game. We launched two boats — two people in one, three in the other — into Downtown Lake at 11pm and canoeed for four hours, around flats and over log boom, in the dim light of a full moon, then carried the boats for another three hours before launching them at dawn on a second, far longer stretch of water: Carpenter Lake.

We were on that lake all day. It went on, and on, and on. 50 miles in total. It was hot. We were tired and for the first time in my life, I hallucinated. We were all at it: elephants, cartoon Snoopies, you name it, they were there in the mountains and water all around us. I begged Mike for an hour's

snore at midday but he wouldn't have it. So I went for a quick dip instead, which kept me awake for at least five minutes.

It didn't really surprise me when, that evening, Mike declared once again that we should travel through the night, this time on our smart new mountain bikes. The hallucinations continued: big polystyrene architectural models in the clouds this time. On several occasions, pushing my bike up an absurdly long hill, I woke myself up as I veered into a bush. At three in the morning enough was declared enough, and guiltily we collapsed for a couple of hours.

And then it rained. The last stretch was about 30 miles on metalled roads, fortunately

SPORT FOR ALL

downhill. Wet and bedraggled, we pedalled on. A dog jumped out and attacked Mike's leg and with a heavy pack to unbalance him, he fell. It was the last straw. I could sense his desperation that we might never get there. We did though, at three in

the afternoon, only to learn that the organisers had stopped people going beyond this checkpoint at six o'clock the previous evening — earlier than had originally been scheduled. The weather was in part to blame.

That was it. We could go no further. It was a shame because the next section was the glacier and it would have been fun. But Vic could at least have the satisfaction of knowing that not only was he the oldest competitor, but that he didn't give up — unlike many younger ones. Only 14 of the 75 teams went further than we did and of those only three teams completed the course in its original form. What's more, there were a good 40 teams of deeply tanned, muscled legs that came in behind us.

MARATHON

The race is already on to enter the 1997 Flora London Marathon on Sunday, April 13. Forms are available in the free magazine *Marathon News*, which is available from selected sports shops. Entries close on October 26.

Those who have run in the event in the last five years or applied to enter over the last two should have received the magazine. Successful applicants will be notified in December. To find your nearest shop, phone 01925-417744.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

What rubber bridge contract gives you 1,800? I scored it the other day in the £100 game at TGR's. I still went home two sticks the poorer. (In gambling slang a "stick" is £1,000.)

Dealer South North-South game Rubber bridge

♠ 10 8 7 6 5	♥ 4 3	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5	♣ 4 3
♠ 4 2	♥ A K J	♦ A K 9 8	♣ A 8 7 2
♠ 10 3	♥ A 2	♦ A 9 8 7 6	♣ J 7 6 5 4
♠ A K 3	♥ J 9 4	♦ A Q 8 7 6	♣ 2

S	W	N	E
1D	1S	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	2S	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Redouble
3NT	Pass	Pass	All Pass

Contract: 3NT redoubled, by South. Lead: ten of clubs

I was North. West's overall of One Spade was sound — you don't need much in the way of high cards to intervene at the one level if you have a half-way decent suit. In particular, when you bid spades it cuts out your LHO's heart bid. Here, if West had passed I had an easy One Heart response. Over One Spade I had an awkward choice; some would bid Two Spades immediately, but I think that bid should only be used if you have no obvious alternative. Duplicate players will recognise that North has a standard negative double of One Spade, but at rubber bridge the double is for penalties.

Canoeing was the next game. We launched two boats — two people in one, three in the other — into Downtown Lake at 11pm and canoeed for four hours, around flats and over log boom, in the dim light of a full moon, then carried the boats for another three hours before launching them at dawn on a second, far longer stretch of water: Carpenter Lake.

We were on that lake all day. It went on, and on, and on. 50 miles in total. It was hot. We were tired and for the first time in my life, I hallucinated. We were all at it: elephants, cartoon Snoopies, you name it, they were there in the mountains and water all around us. I begged Mike for an hour's

snore at midday but he wouldn't have it. So I went for a quick dip instead, which kept me awake for at least five minutes.



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Amsterdam

The co-winner of the Donner Memorial tournament in Amsterdam was Vassily Ivanchuk, the powerful Ukrainian grandmaster. In the game that follows Ivanchuk scores a blistering sacrificial win with a new idea in the double-edged Marshall Gambit of the Ruy Lopez. The Marshall Gambit, offering a pawn for aggressive black counterchances, has proved a serious thorn in the flesh for White players who wish to enjoy an untroubled initiative. Ivanchuk's strategy here is cunning. First he chooses the apparently pretentious move 12 d3 (instead of 12 d4) and thus avoids the main theoretical lines. Secondly, Ivanchuk's 17th move Qf1 helps to beat off the black attack and by move 27, the white queen is perfectly placed to tear into the defences of Black's king.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Ivan Sokolov
Amsterdam, August 1996

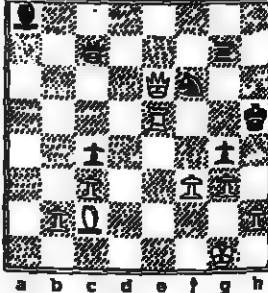
1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bb5	a6
4 Bxa6	Nf6
5 O-O	Be7
6 Re1	b5
7 Bb3	O-O
8 c3	d5
9 exd5	Nxd5
10 Nxe5	Nxe5
11 f4	c6
12 d3	Bd6

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Black to play. This position is from the game Weller — Hall, Glasgow 1964. Can you calculate Black's brilliant combination, which is based upon his strong bishop on g7 and his open lines on the queenside?

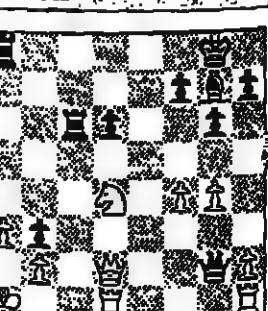
Diagram of final position



The critical variation which tests White's attack came on move 30. If 30 ... Kf6 31 f4g4 Bxb6 32 Qxb6+ Kf7 33 Re6 Rg8 34 g5 followed by 35 Bh5+ winning.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE



Scots Law Report September 16 1996 Court of Session

Unlawful surrogacy payment does not preclude adoption of child

C. Petitioner

Before the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Allanbridge and Lord Weir.

[Judgment June 25]

There was nothing in the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 to suggest that a person was disabled from obtaining an adoption order in relation to a child by reason of that person being unable to obtain a parental order under the Human Fertilisation and Embology Act 1990 as he had contravened section 30(7)(c) of that Act, because money or other benefit, other than expenses reasonably incurred, had been given or received for or in consideration of the handing over of the child.

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session so held when allowing an appeal by Mr C and his wife against the making of a custody order in terms of section 53(1)(b) of the Children Act 1975 in their favour by the sheriff at Dunfermline and substituting an adoption order in their favour in respect of baby X.

Mr Peter Gilliam for the petitioners and respondents; Mrs Elizabeth Jarvis QC and Miss Charlotte Court for the respondent and appellant.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the child X who was the subject of the present proceedings had been born on March 30, 1995 to the appellant S as a result of a surrogacy arrangement which she had entered into with the petitioners, Mr and Mrs C.

X had been born at Kingsdown-Hall and on the same day had been taken by Mr and Mrs C to their home in Scotland. He had remained in their care ever since.

In August 1995 the petitioners had lodged an adoption petition to which S had withheld her consent. After proof in February 1996, the sheriff at Dunfermline had held in terms of section 1(2)(b) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 that S was withholding consent unreasonably and that her agreement to the order should be dispensed with under section 1(2)(b)(ii) of the 1978 Act.

He had also held that Mr and Mrs C had contravened section 53(1)(c) of the 1978 Act and section 30(7) of the 1990 Act because they had made a payment of £8,000 to S.

He had therefore refused to make an adoption order, but in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of X he made a custody order in terms of section 53(1)(b) of the 1978 Act in favour of Mr and Mrs C with no right of access to S. S had appealed and Mr and Mrs C had cross-appealed.

S's three grounds of appeal were: first, that the sheriff had erred in fact and law in finding that she was withholding agreement to the adoption of X un-

reasonably; second, that the sheriff having decided to refuse to make an adoption order had erred in making a custody order; and third, that even if he had been entitled to award custody, she should have been allowed access.

The three grounds of the cross-appeal were first, that the custody order was incompetent in the circumstances of the case; second, that the sheriff was in error in holding that the payment of £8,000 had been made in contravention of section 53(1)(c) of the 1978 Act, and in any event in failing to authorise it under section 53(3) if it were contrary to section 53(1)(c); and third, that any objection on the ground of public policy which resulted from the making of the payment was outweighed by the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood, and that he should have made an adoption order so as to vest all parental rights and duties in relation to X in Mr and Mrs C and bring to an end X's relationship with S.

Whether agreement unreasonably withheld.

The sheriff had followed the approach described in *Lothian R. v. A* (1992 SLT 158) and had

applied the objective test defined by Lord Reid in *A v B and C* (1971 SC (HL) 1290).

He had held that the appellant as a reasonable person would take account of a number of factors which were in favour of adoption. These included the whole background to the matter and in particular the surrogacy arrangement.

It had been her decision to hand X over, when born, to the respondents. Thus she was in a sense responsible for placing the child with them.

The sheriff had also taken into account the fact that Mr C was the child's natural father, that he and his wife had had X in their care since two hours after his birth and that X had bonded well with them.

In the sheriff's view, the appellant would, as a reasonable parent, also take account of the fact that Mr and Mrs C had a close, happy and secure relationship, whereas S was alone. She would also have recognised that her own motives for refusing her consent were the result of thinking of herself only. She was, therefore, withholding her consent unreasonably.

For the appellant, it had been argued that that decision taken together with the custody order and the refusal of access to S made enforceable what had been declared by the sheriff to be unenforceable. She was an experienced mother who kept a good and tidy home and cared well for her four children.

In regard to the surrogacy arrangement, it had been argued that she had not been able to give her free and unconditional consent to the taking away of the child after his birth because of her distress.

In his Lordship's opinion, there was an ample basis in the facts to support the decision that S had withheld her consent unreasonably. It was clear that the question had to be looked at objectively and that the test would be satisfied if no reasonable parent in all the circumstances would withhold agreement to the making of the adoption order.

The first consideration for the reasonable parent would be the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood. His Lordship could not improve on the observations of Lord Haleham, Lord Chancellor, in *Re W* (1971 AC 843).

In his Lordship's opinion, the

sheriff had been entitled to hold that the factors were not equally balanced in regard to the home environment and lifestyle which the parties could provide.

While the ability of S as a mother to her four children was not in doubt, it was a fact that their father did not live with her and that he did not support the family. She was in that sense alone and she was also on state benefit.

Mr and Mrs C on the other hand had a secure relationship. There were reasons which the sheriff had identified for doubting the appellant's sense of personal responsibility; her past drug-taking, her reaction to professional advice and her decision to involve a tabloid newspaper in her desire to recover possession of the child.

The sheriff had held that she had held time and again throughout the surrogacy arrangement and that she had continued in conduct herself in that manner in the witness box. In the sheriff's opinion, her whole approach towards recovering the child had been self-orientated and she had totally closed her mind to the effect which that might have on the child.

His Lordship did not consider that the sheriff's judgment on these matters could be disturbed.

Custody and access. For the appellant, it had been submitted that, having decided he could not grant the adoption order, the sheriff should have dismissed the petition and delivered the child back to S.

Until and unless an adoption order was made, S continued to have parental rights in terms of section 21(a) of the Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Act 1986, as she was the child's mother.

Further, the sheriff had failed to explain why it would not be in the child's best interests to retain some contact with S and that he had placed undue weight on the poor relationship between Mr and Mrs C and S, which, in the circumstances, was bound to be a difficult one.

For Mr and Mrs C it had been argued that a custody order was not competent in terms of section 53(1)(b) of the 1978 Act. That was because the court could only make such an order where it was of the opinion that it was more appropriate than an adoption order.

It was clear from the sheriff's note that he had been satisfied that an adoption order was more appropriate. In any event he had failed to consider the effect on the child of a custody order as opposed

to an adoption order, thus departing from the requirements of section 5 of the 1978 Act. In relation to access, there was nothing to show that that would be of benefit to the child.

The court had not been referred to any case in which a custody order had been made in proceedings for adoption under section 53(1)(b) of the 1978 Act.

There was considerable force in the submission for Mr and Mrs C that, standing the sheriff's view that it would be in the child's best interests to remain with Mr and Mrs C, it was not open to him, however desirable that might otherwise have seemed to avoid the problems caused by the payments to S, to make a custody order under section 53(1)(b).

The sheriff had been right not to make an order under section 53(1)(a), but he could only make an order under section 53(1)(b) if, in all the circumstances, he was of the opinion that it would be more appropriate than the making of an adoption order.

He had not held that the making of a custody order was more appropriate. He could not have done that because by holding that he could not make an adoption order there was no longer any

choice to be made between the two orders.

It was not open to him to hold that as between those two possible orders, which was the more appropriate.

For those reasons his Lordship considered that the sheriff had misdirected himself in law in concluding that he could make a custody order in terms of that provision in this case.

The surrogacy payment.

The sheriff's finding was that at the time of the handing over of the child to them, Mr and Mrs C intended either to seek a parental order in terms of the 1990 Act or to seek to adopt the child. That finding of fact provided the basis for the finding that the payment of £8,000 was an illegal payment in terms of section 30(7)(c) of the 1990 Act, and sections 24 and 51(1)(c) of the 1978 Act.

His Lordship could find nothing in the 1978 Act to suggest that a person who was unable to obtain a parental order under the 1990 Act, as he had contravened section 30(7)(c) of that Act, because money or other benefit, other than expenses reasonably incurred, had been given or received for or in consideration of the handing over of the child, was thereby disabled from obtaining an adoption order in relation to that child.

In his Lordship's opinion, it was only where the payment contravened section 51(1) of the 1978 Act that section 24(2) applied and the court was thereby precluded from making an adoption order.

The fact that the payment contravened section 30(7)(c) of the 1990 Act might give rise to an objection to the making of an adoption order on the ground of public policy; but there was no statutory bar, as the issue was one for the exercise of a discretion of the court.

While both Acts prohibited the making of payments, it did not follow that a payment which was for a purpose struck at by one Act was struck at by both. It was necessary to examine the evidence with some care.

In his Lordship's opinion, the evidence of Mr and Mrs C read as a whole pointed clearly to the conclusion that when the payments were made it was a parental order which they had in mind as the means of obtaining parental rights when the child was born.

For those reasons his Lordship did not consider that the sheriff had a sound basis in the evidence for his view that the payment was struck at by both Acts.

Lord Allanbridge and Lord Weir delivered concurring opinions.

Law agents: Gilliam Mackie, SSC, McClure Naismith and Gordon; for J. R. Stevenson & Marshall.

Mercedes-Benz Finance Ltd v Clydesdale Bank plc

Before Lord Penrose

[Judgment June 14]

A direct debit instruction did not operate to vest in the payee the rights of the payer under his contract with his bank whether by mandate or assignment. Further, the contract between banker and customer did not depend upon or reflect the view that the banker received and held assets transferred to him by the customer on trust for the customer or his nominees.

Lord Penrose, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held in an action of payment by Mercedes-Benz Finance Ltd against the Clydesdale Bank, excluding averments by the pursuers pleading a case based, first, on a direct debit mandate in their favour and, second, on an alleged trust constituted in their favour.

Mr James Muir for the pursuers; Mr David Sellar for the defenders.

LORD PENROSE said that the action arose from claims by the pursuers for payment to them by the bank of sums received by G, a member company of a group which banked with the defenders.

G had been employed by the pursuers for the sale of such

vehicles in the UK. In terms of the two agreements between the pursuers and G, vehicles were to be supplied on consignment terms, each vehicle remaining the property of the pursuers until payment was received by them.

In pursuance of those agreements, the pursuers had been authorised to obtain payments from G's account with the defenders by direct debit.

The group of which G was a member had experienced financial difficulties and in October 1990 the defenders had frozen the group accounts; at that time G's account had been in credit in the sum of £19,479.09.

A separate account had been opened for G and other group companies with an overdraft limited to £100,000. G had continued to trade, utilising that new facility. It had sold, and been paid for, vehicles in respect of which the total due to the pursuers was £11,598.38.

The pursuers had intimated direct debit requests in that amount which the defenders had declined to pay. G pled that there had been about £40,000 available on the facility at that time and that G had lodged additional funds with the defenders so as to bring the balance due within the limit.

The defenders had declined to make the transfer to the pursuers and a receiver had been appointed to G on November 5, 1990.

The direct debit case

In the first place, the pursuers sought payment of £40,500, arguing that the direct debit instruction in their favour and the intimation by the pursuers to the defenders of instructions to pay had the effect of assigning to them the funds available to the account of G.

There was, it had been argued, a distinction between the contractual rights and obligations of a banker and customer inter se, and the assignative effect of a cheque which was reflected in the effect of a cheque drawn on an overdraft account and a mandate in rem suam in favour of a party other than the account holder to operate the account for his own use.

The mandate operated on the contractual rights between banker and customer, and was not dependent on there being a credit balance of funds held by the banker for the customer.

For the bank it had been argued that that analysis was misconceived. A direct debit was no more than an instruction to the bank to make a series of payments for and on behalf of the customer of sums intimated by the payee.

It was dependent, as was a cheque, on the availability of funds at the successive dates on which payment fell due. There was no difference in principle between direct debit and a cheque or any other form of instruction to a

banker to make payment.

In his Lordship's opinion, the pursuers' claim was misconceived. There was no difficulty in characterising as a mandate in rem suam the completion of a direct debit form and its presentation by the creditor to the debtor's bank.

The authority to present the completed form to the debtor's bank had its legal basis in mandate. The intimation of the sum payable was in the hands of the creditor, but the instruction to pay remained the instruction of the account holder. The direct debit did not operate so as to vest in the payee any rights of the payer.

The right of the creditor was to compel the debtor's obligation to him summarily by calling on the bank to implement the standing instruction of the customer within the context of and subject to the contract between customer and banker.

The first case. The pursuers had also pled an alternative case for payment of £77,212.18 based on trust.

That claim was based on the contention that G had lodged the sum with the defenders for the specific purpose of payment to the pursuers, that the defenders had accepted the sum on that basis and that the defenders accordingly became trustees of the sum for that purpose.

It had been argued that the

requirements for the creation of a valid trust as set out in *Clark v Taylor v Quality Site Development* (1981 SC 111) were satisfied.

There was an asset in the form of cash lodged with the defenders. The trust attached on delivery. The fund was dedicated to a defined purpose. The purpose of the lodgement had been discussed at the time.

The defenders were under no misapprehension as to the purpose for which the sums had been lodged with them. They knew that the payment had been made because the direct debit had been complied with. The only reason that the funds had been lodged was to ensure that they reached the pursuers.

For the defenders, it had been argued that they could not be liable without knowledge of the fiduciary relationship between G and the pursuers: *Stytle Financial Services Ltd v Bank of Scotland* (The Times May 23, 1995; 1996 SLT 431). There was no identifiable asset and the terms of the consignment agreement did not assist the pursuers. There were insufficient pleadings of knowledge. There was no authority in Scots law other than in the context of agency for the application of trust principles to contractual relationships. *Clark v Taylor* was conclusive on that point.

Neither depended upon nor reflected the view that the banker received and held assets transferred to him by his customer on trust for the customer or his nominees.

Law agents: Macleay Murray & Spens; Biggart Baillie & Gilford, WS.

Law Report September 16 1996 Court of Appeal

Property charge includes interest

Ezekial v Orakpo

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment July 3]

When a judgment creditor obtained a charge on a property as security for the judgment debt, the creditor's security extended also to interest on the debt even if interest was not expressly mentioned in the charging order.

Moreover, the amount of interest recoverable under the charging order was not limited by the Limitation Act 1980.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Uthman Orakpo, and allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Freddy Juon Ezekial, from a decision of Mr Justice Carnwath in the Chancery Division (The Times November 8, 1994).

Mr Norman Primost for the plaintiff; the defendant in person.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that in August 1979 the plaintiff obtained judgment against the defendant for £20,733.27 together with taxed costs. In March 1982 the plaintiff obtained a charging order absolute on the defendant's property for the sum of £20,965.85, that being the balance due on the judgment debt.

The charging order made no mention of interest due on the debt. In 1993, after an unexplained lapse of 11 years from the charging order and nearly 14 years since the judgment itself, the plaintiff applied for an order enabling him to enforce the charging order.

According to the plaintiff's solicitor's calculations, in January 1995 the total sum owing to the plaintiff inclusive of interest was over £47,000. By September 1994, interest alone had reached over £42,000 and the total sum inclusive of interest was over £75,000.

The master had ordered that the plaintiff be given possession of the property, that the defendant be sold and that the conduct of the sale be committed to the plaintiff's solicitors.

Judge Rich, QC, sitting as a High Court Judge had dismissed the defendant's appeal against the master's order and leave to appeal was refused.

The defendant then applied under Order 50, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and section 39 of the Charging Orders Act 1979 to vary or discharge the charging order on the ground that the judgment debt had been satisfied.

The basis of his application was that he had tendered a sum of £28,574.27 which was more than sufficient to satisfy the judgment debt but was not sufficient to satisfy the plaintiff's claim for interest and the costs of enforcing the security.

The defendant submitted that the plaintiff's charging order was security for the judgment debt only and not for interest or for the costs of enforcing the security.

Alternatively, he submitted that the plaintiff could not recover more than six years of interest by virtue of section 24(2) of the Limitation Act 1980 which provided that no interest in respect of any judgment debt could be recovered after the expiration of six years from the date on which interest became due.

Mr Justice Carnwath had ruled: (i) that the plaintiff's security did extend to interest on the judgment debt even though there was no express reference to it in the charging order, but (ii) that the effect of section 24(2) of the 1980 Act was to limit the amount of interest that the plaintiff could recover under the charging order to six years interest.

The defendant appealed from the first ruling and the plaintiff from the second.

The question on the defendant's appeal was whether the charging order secured the payment of interest on the judgment debt even though the order contained no mention of interest.

His Lordship said that question was concluded by authority for two different reasons:

First, under section 17 of the Judgments Act 1838, interest on a judgment debt was attached to and formed part of the judgment debt itself. The effect of the statutory provision that the debt carried interest of its own force was that the interest was, as it were, attached to the judgment debt.

That was decided in *Claggett, Ex parte Lewis* (1887) 36 WR 653 where the judgment creditor was held to be entitled to interest even though the only sum stated in the order was the amount of the principal. It followed that there was no need to mention interest in the judgment itself or in the order carrying the judgment into effect, or in a charging order since the reference to the judgment alone was enough.

It was of course much better practice to include an express reference to interest so that the effect of the order was clear to the judgment debtor, but it was not strictly necessary.

Second, section 34(4) of the Charging Orders Act 1979 provided that the charging order took effect as an

equitable charge created by the judgment debtor by writing under his hand. It had therefore to be given the same effect, unless the Act itself provided otherwise, as would an equitable charge on the land to secure a stated principal sum but with no mention of interest.

Such a charge would carry interest even though there were no words allowing interest in the charge itself. That was decided in *Re Drax* (1903) 1 Ch 781, followed by *Stoker v Elwell* (1942) 1 Ch 243 where it was held that a charging order over shares, not land, secured interest which had accrued on the judgment debt since 1899.

So far as the costs of enforcing the security were concerned, his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Carnwath's conclusion that the charging order must be given the provisions of the statute be given the same effect as if it were an equitable charge under hand only so that the charge would have the right in equity to add the costs of enforcing the security to the security.

On the plaintiff's appeal, the question was whether the effect of the 1980 Act was to limit the plaintiff to six years interest prior to the application to enforce the charge.

It was important to recognise what was the true nature of the plaintiff's application in the present case. He was not bringing an action upon the judgment debt which he had obtained in 1979 nor was he seeking to enforce execution of that judgment. He did that when he applied for and obtained the charging order in 1982.

In 1993 he was a secured creditor with the statutory equivalent of an equitable charge. He was taking action to recover what was due to him, not as a judgment creditor, but as a secured creditor.

He was in the same position as any other creditor with an equitable charge which had been created in 1982 and which he wished to enforce in 1996. He had to apply to the court for orders for possession and sale, not because he was executing a judgment, but because he needed an order for possession in order to effect a sale.

It was a settled rule that a

mortgagor was not entitled to tender a mortgage unless he tendered the full amount of interest due, whether or not any part of the interest was statute barred. Likewise when a mortgagee sold the mortgaged property, he was entitled to retain all arrears of interest, whether or not statute barred, before accounting to the mortgagor for the surplus.

That had been decided in a long line of authorities beginning with *Edmunds v Wagh* (1866) 1 Eq 418, followed by *In re Marshfield* (1887) 34 Ch D 721, *In re Lloyd* (1903) 1 Ch 385 and *Holmes v Cowcher* (1970) 1 All ER 1224.

The basis of those decisions was that whether the mortgagor was seeking to redeem or whether the mortgagee was accounting to the mortgagor for the surplus, the mortgagee was not bringing an action to recover interest. He already had the mortgaged property or the proceeds of the security in his hands.

The 1980 Act contained nothing to reverse that line of authorities. It was the judge's view in the present case that the charge had to show that he had tendered enough to satisfy the debt and that he would not do that merely by showing that he had tendered enough to satisfy only so much as was recoverable by action. But the judge had felt constrained by the Court of Appeal's decision in *Poole Corporation v Moody* (1945) 1 KB 350 to reach the opposite conclusion.

His Lordship said he did not find the decision in *Poole Corporation* easy to understand. In his judgment, that case proceeded in an unfortunate way on a number of erroneous assumptions and was inconsistent with an established line of authority which included *In re Lloyd*, a decision of the Court of Appeal.

In his Lordship's judgment, *Poole Corporation* was decided per incuriam and ought not to be followed and the judge should have declined to follow it. Accordingly the plaintiff's appeal was allowed.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitor: Avi Lehrer.

Using drugs inquiry material

Regina v Thompson (John)
Regina v Smith (Anthony)

Material coming to light in an inquiry under the Drugs Trafficking Offences Act 1986 could be used to inform the court of the seriousness of the offence for which the offender was to be sentenced and of the degree of his involvement in it but it must not lead to the offender being punished for offences for which he could not otherwise have been sentenced.

The Court of Appeal Criminal Division (Lord Justice Hirst, Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Tristram) so stated on July 31 in

allowing in part appeals by John Reginald Thompson and Anthony John Smith against sentences imposed in April 1995 at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court (Judge Pabjan Evans) of concurrent terms of eight years and 12 years imprisonment respectively in respect of two counts of conspiracy to import cannabis resin. Confiscation orders were made against Thompson in the sum of £17,000, with 12 months imprisonment in default, and against Smith in the sum of £128 million, with 10 years in default.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH

said that a DTOA hearing was akin to a Newton hearing (1983) 77 Cr App R 13 where a defendant pleaded guilty to an offence on a basis of fact which the Crown did not accept.

If, in such a hearing, evidence was then called which made the judge sure that the offender's degree of involvement was greater than he claimed that might properly be reflected in the sentence.

Indeed that was the sole purpose of such a hearing. There was every reason to treat findings of fact made to the requisite standard of proof in a DTOA hearing in the same way.

30p

THE TIMES

WHEN WILL THE
COMPUTER GRADUATE FROM
SLAVE TO MASTER?

Interface in Wednesday's Times.
http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
4000 Alk. Beverages	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
4000 Alk. Beverages	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
4000 Alk. Beverages	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
4000 Alk. Beverages	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
4000 Alk. Beverages	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BANKS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Bank of England	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Bank of England	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Bank of England	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Bank of England	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Bank of England	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Breweries, Pubs & Rest.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Breweries, Pubs & Rest.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Breweries, Pubs & Rest.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Breweries, Pubs & Rest.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Breweries, Pubs & Rest.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Building & Construct.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building & Construct.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building & Construct.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building & Construct.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building & Construct.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Building Materials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building Materials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building Materials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building Materials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Building Materials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Chemicals	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Chemicals	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Chemicals	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Chemicals	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Chemicals	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Distributors	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Distributors	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Distributors	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Distributors	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Distributors	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Diversified Industrials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Diversified Industrials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Diversified Industrials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Diversified Industrials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Diversified Industrials	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Engineering Vehicles	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Engineering Vehicles	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Engineering Vehicles	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Engineering Vehicles	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Engineering Vehicles	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Food Manufacturers	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Food Manufacturers	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Food Manufacturers	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Food Manufacturers	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Food Manufacturers	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Electricity	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electricity	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electricity	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electricity	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electricity	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ELECTRONIC & ELECT.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Electronic & Elect.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electronic & Elect.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electronic & Elect.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electronic & Elect.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Electronic & Elect.	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Healthcare	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Healthcare	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Healthcare	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Healthcare	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Healthcare	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Household Goods	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Household Goods	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Household Goods	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Household Goods	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Household Goods	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Insurance	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Insurance	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Insurance	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Insurance	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Insurance	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Investment Trusts	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Investment Trusts	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Investment Trusts	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Investment Trusts	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Investment Trusts	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

LEISURE & HOTELS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Leisure & Hotels	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

MINING

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Mining	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Mining	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Mining	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Mining	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Mining	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Property	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Property	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Property	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Property	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Property	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Telecommunications	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Telecommunications	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Telecommunications	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Telecommunications	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Telecommunications	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Textiles & Apparel	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Textiles & Apparel	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Textiles & Apparel	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Textiles & Apparel	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Textiles & Apparel	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

TRANSPORT

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Transport	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Transport	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Transport	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Transport	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Transport	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

RETAILERS FOOD

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Retailers Food	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers Food	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers Food	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers Food	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers Food	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

RETAILERS GENERAL

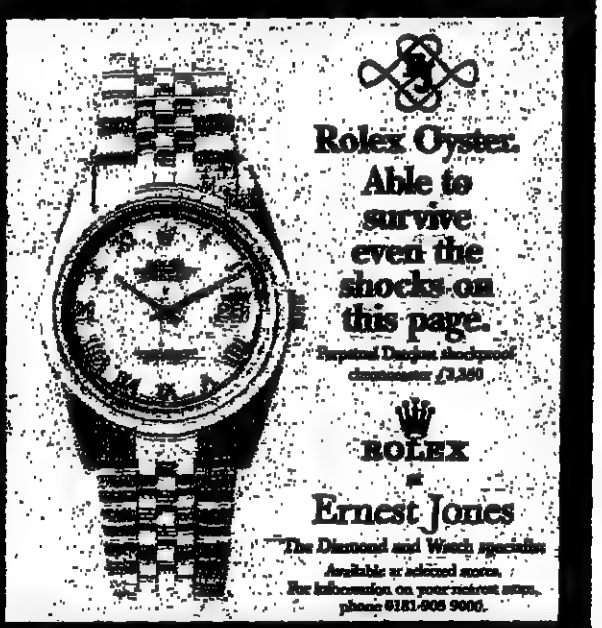
Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Retailers General	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers General	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers General	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers General	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Retailers General	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

WATER

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Water	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Water	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Water	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Water	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Water	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

ALTERNATIVE INV. MARKET

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Alternative Inv. Market	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Alternative Inv. Market	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Alternative Inv. Market	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Alternative Inv. Market	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Alternative Inv. Market	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00



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Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 British Funds	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Shorts (under 5 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Shorts (under 5 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Shorts (under 5 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Shorts (under 5 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Shorts (under 5 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

LONGS (over 15 years)

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100000 Longs (over 15 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Longs (over 15 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Longs (over 15 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
100000 Longs (over 15 years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	10.00

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Active Imaging, Amey, Arlen, EIS Group, English China Clays, Dinkie Hosi, Fisher International, James Fisher, Norman Hay, Kynoch Group, Laporte, London & Manchester Group, Morgan Crucible, Princesdale, Sharpe & Fisher, Travis Perkins, **Finals:** City Technology, Dalgety, Dorling Kindersley, Prolific Income, Whitford of Chelsea, **Economics:** US Treasury auction of short-term bills, EU agriculture ministers meeting, Bank of France discount T-bills auction and money market tender.

TOMORROW

Interims: Abbot Mead Vickers, Asda Property Holdings, Brent International, BSG International, BSM, W. Canning, Cassell, Claremont Garments, EBC Group, Bernard Matthews, Meggitt, Meristem, P&O, Roxboro Group, Sears, Servomex, S&U, Taylor Woodrow, Tesco, Universal Ceramic, Vardon, Vymura, Wainwrights Holdings, **Finals:** Domestic & General, HTR Japanese Smaller Companies, **Economics:** August PSBR, Bank of England announces details of September 25 gilt auction, US August industrial production.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Charles Baynes, Bowthorpe, Britannia Assurance, British Biotech (q1), Hunting, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Next, Tibury Douglas, Tracker Network, Wassell, Wainwrights, **Finals:** Bryant Group, S. Lyles, M-R Group, Towry Law, **Economics:** UK August retail sales, Minutes of July 30 Clarke/George monetary policy meeting, US July trade balance, French 1997 Budget presented to Cabinet.

THURSDAY

Interims: Albright & Wilson, Bilton & Battersea, Blagden Industries, Camasa, Clinton Cards, Fired Earth, IBC Group, Wm. Morrison Supermarkets, New Ireland, **Finals:** Rathbone Brothers, RMC Group, Sherwood Group, Spandax, Steel Burrell, Sun Life & Provincial Holdings, **Finals:** Alumsac Group, **Economics:** UK British banking groups end-August monthly statement, UK provisional August M4 money supply, UK August new vehicle production, UK building societies monthly mortgage data, Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Atlas Converting Equipment, Estates & General, Martin Currie Pacific, Pacific Assets Trust, **Finals:** Pizza Express, Thomas Walker, **Economics:** UK September 25 gilt auction.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



Tesco to confirm its dominance



Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman, is expected to unveil figures that show buoyant trading

TESCO: Half-year figures tomorrow should help to confirm the group's dominant position as Britain's leading food retailer at a time when the price war shows signs of hotting up in the run-up to Christmas. Pre-tax profits are expected to grow by about £30 million to £320 million, although earnings growth will be a little slower, up about 2 per cent to 10.1p. A tax refund of almost £30 million will be offset to a certain extent by a £20 million charge relating to the closure of two Home 'n' Wear distribution centres.

At the annual general meeting in June, the group confirmed that sales during the first 14 weeks of the current year were 13 per cent ahead of the comparable period. Like-for-like sales, however, were 3 per cent down on the same period last year.

The one black spot will be petrol retailing which will have seen margins squeezed because of the price war. But trading generally is reckoned to have been reasonably buoyant, allowing the group to move early towards its usual autumn round of pre-Christmas price promotions. Although earnings growth at the half-year stage will be subdued, shareholders should be rewarded with an increase in the half-year payout of about 6.5 per cent to 3.25p.

WM MORRISON: By contrast, Wm Morrison has seen a slowdown in sales growth. When it last reported in May, William Morrison said sales growth during the first 14 weeks of the year was 12.5 per cent, down 2 points on the first seven weeks of the preceding year.

Half-year pre-tax profits on Thursday will mirror the tough competitive environment being experienced, with brokers forecasting an unchanged figure of about £51 million. NatWest Securities, the broker, reckons the continuing sales growth at Asda will produce a further decline in like-for-like sales and another narrowing of margins at Wm Morrison. At the same time, the group will have incurred increased costs from its store refurbishment programme.

NEXT: There appears to be no sign of a slowdown in the strong sales growth that the group has enjoyed of late. Half-year figures

on Wednesday are expected to make pleasant reading and are likely to lead to another round of profit upgradings by brokers.

At present, pre-tax profits are set to surge from £44.1 million to £55 million on the back of the improved outlook for consumer spending. At the annual general meeting in May, Next reported a sales rise of 16 per cent, but brokers say the overall figure is now likely to be in excess of 20 per cent, boosted by the general improvement in clothes sales since then. Like-for-like sales are expected to be in the region of 15 per cent ahead.

SEARS: Unlike other high street retailers, the group seems to have

more than its fair share of problems. The statement accompanying full-year figures in April, warned shareholders not to expect too much from these results. Brokers have taken the company at its word and are forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £30.3 million to about £25 million when the group unveils half-year figures tomorrow. Even so, the dividend should be pegged at 1.05p net. Areas of concern are falling sales and profits at British Shoe Corporation and lower profits at Freemans. The upturn in consumer confidence may provide the basis for a recovery.

LAURA ASHLEY: If indications given at the annual general

meeting in May were anything to go by, half-year figures on Thursday, should be reasonably encouraging at first sight, with pre-tax profits doubled at £6 million, although that will compare with a depressed performance last time. The new management team under Ann Iverson will have concentrated its efforts on reducing costs and how best to utilise provisions for store closures and redundancies.

A further decline in margins is almost certain in the wake of last year's heavy stock clearances and the recession in Europe. Earnings will also double to 1.8p and the group is expected to make a return to the dividend list with a token payment of 0.5p.

DALGETY: The Petfood acquisition from Quaker Oats should have made a useful contribution to full-year figures out today. But that and a maintained final dividend of 13p net are likely to be the only positive things to emerge. Overall pre-tax profits are expected to tumble from £93.7 million to £46 million with earnings, already diluted by last year's rights issue, collapsing from 20.4p to 3.3p.

Even after adding back an expected rationalisation charge of almost £20 million, compared with £33.4 million last time, and a BSE-related stock writedown of £14.4 million, profits will still be down from £125 million to £108 million. The Dalgety management continue to struggle to reduce the cost base.

HAYS: Full-year figures from the fast growing business services group out later this morning should show further progress. Pre-tax profits range from £130 million to £133 million compared with £110.3 million. The group continues to make acquisitions having earlier this year bought the Inkhil mail services group for £65 million.

MORGAN CRUCIBLE: Another impressive performance is expected from the group when it unveils half-year figures later this morning. A rise in pre-tax profits of about £6.5 million to £48.5 million is anticipated in spite of being hit by the strike at General Motors in the US and the fact that some of its markets remain depressed. A 12 per cent rise in earnings to 13.6p is being forecast and shareholders should be rewarded with a 5 per cent rise in the dividend to 6.55p net.

RMC GROUP: Not much has gone right for the group of late. Brokers say a combination of poor weather, the recession in Germany, a further decline in France and little sign of recovery in this country should have all combined to drag half-year figures lower when the group reports on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are expected to drop from £130 million to between £90 million and £100 million. Earnings will also be down from 31.1p to 19.2p, but shareholders are likely to enjoy a 'lap increase in the dividend to almost 8p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Borrowing may top £4bn

In Britain, the first focus of the week will be tomorrow with publication of public borrowing figures for August. As the Budget looms ever closer, monthly figures will inevitably pique increasing interest. In August, the Government is expected to have borrowed £4.1 billion, according to a consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, after a net repayment of £1.7 billion in July.

The next point of interest is on Wednesday when retail sales for August are published and are expected to show a continuation of the overall upward trend. In July sales fell by 0.6 per cent but this largely reflected a fallback from extremely buoyant figures in June. August is expected to see a rise in sales volumes of 0.5 per cent. Economists are also waiting for publication on Thursday of the latest Confederation of British Industry industrial trends survey and latest bank and building society lending figures for August.

For the financial markets, there is more focus this week on events overseas. With a crucial meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee on September 24, all eyes are on US statistics. Early last week, the markets became convinced that the Fed would raise interest rates, but weak inflation data later in the week introduced some doubts. This week, the main focus will be on industrial production and capacity utilisation figures tomorrow and housing starts on Thursday.

Survey evidence suggests that the production figures should show a pickup in manufacturing activity, according to Adam Chester of Yamachi International Europe. Surveys from the Fed and the purchasing managers have been stronger and non-farm payrolls showed their best gain in August since January 1995.

There is also a great deal of interest in European budget announcements as aspiring members of a single currency try to bring their deficits in line with the Maastricht criteria. This week, the focus is on France which announces the details of its Budget on Wednesday. Sweden introduces its budget on Friday.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Sears, Tesco, Delphi Group, BWI. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Dalgety, MFI, Freeport Leisure, Brunner Mond, Wembley. Independent on Sunday: Buy Kingfisher, Rosebys, Nynex CableComms, Pace Micro Technology, Sell Memory Corporation. The Observer: Sell Railtrack. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Kynoch, Finelint, Take Profits Aegis.

Strong sterling 'hurt UK in 1980s'

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The large appreciation of sterling in the early 1980s resulted in a permanent deterioration in Britain's trade performance, according to a new study from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Bob Anderson, the author, notes

that between 1979 and 1984, import penetration rose by more than a quarter, manufacturing employment fell by 25 per cent and imports from newly industrialising countries soared by more than 120 per cent. The link between these events, he argues, is the fact that sterling appreciated by around 30 per cent between 1979 and 1981 before returning

to its original level by the end of 1983.

Mr Anderson contends that this temporary appreciation in sterling led to permanent loss of market share. It effectively offered a discount on import prices which encouraged British purchasers to sample the quality of previously untried imported goods. The problems were exacerbated because the

severe recession that accompanied sterling's rise led to a notable deterioration in Britain's investment performance. He estimates that these effects together accounted for around a third of the rise in import penetration between 1979 and 1984 and around 40 per cent of the decline in the UK's share of world exports of manufactured goods.

Stress taking its toll of managers

By OUR CITY STAFF

NINE out of every ten managers believe their job-related stress is adversely affecting morale, health, efficiency and relationships. As a result, half say they do not look forward to going to work.

A joint survey by the Institute of Management and a health products manufacturer

said the three most stressful factors at work are unreasonable deadlines, office politics and the strain of firing someone. But Britain's stressed managers are keeping silent because admitting to stress is seen as a sign of weakness. The survey provides a gloomy picture of a UK workforce now suffering severely from stress and overwork. The only sol-

ution is for business to drop its "macho and heroic" image of stress and encourage greater co-operation and support, says the survey.

The Institute interviewed 1,100 member managers. The survey said that poor stress management meant inefficiencies, lost production and absenteeism. An estimated 270,000 people are taking time off

because of work-related stress, representing a £7 billion annual cost in lost production and meeting health payments.

More than half the managers (52 per cent) complained of overwork, compared with 40 per cent in a similar survey three years ago. Only 50 per cent said they look forward to going to work, compared with 62 per cent in 1993.

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Kay named as Oxford director

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

JOHN KAY, chairman of London Economics and Visiting Professor of Economics at the London Business School, has been named as the new director of the Oxford University School of Management Studies. He takes up the post at the start of next year.

Professor Kay succeeds Clark Brundin, who is retiring. The post is funded by the Peter Moores Foundation, and he will be known as the Peter Moores Director of the Oxford School of Management Studies. In July the school received a £20 million benefaction from Wafic Said, the businessman.

Professor Kay had previously been director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, and Professor of Economics and director of the Centre for Business Strategy at the London Business School.

He was a lecturer in economics at Oxford University and remains a Fellow of St John's College.

Franc faces turbulence over crucial budget

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE French franc could face some turbulence this week when the Government led by Alain Juppé announces its crucial Budget for 1997, the test year under the Maastricht treaty for entry into a single currency.

Jean Arthuis, France's Finance Minister, details the Budget on Wednesday. It is

expected to claim to get the deficit down to the 3 per cent Maastricht limit with significant spending cuts offset by around £25 billion of income tax cuts next year.

The question for the franc is whether the markets find the figures credible.

Jean-François Mercier, of Salomon Brothers, predicted



Alain Juppé's budget must convince the markets

that the Budget would not ease lingering investor doubts about France's ability to control its deficits over the long term.

Julian Jessop, of Nikko Europe, said that the Government's measures will be inadequate and leave the deficit at over 4 per cent of GDP in 1997 because the structural deficit is much worse than the Government admits and because growth will not come up to its expectations.

However, there is a growing view in the currency markets that, however questionable the budget arithmetic, France will join a single currency because of political determination. Many traders therefore feel no compelling reason to attack the franc.

This camp believes that the Government will come up with the necessary arithmetic. It is already clear that it is prepared to make liberal use of creative accounting.

Privatisation yields £8.8bn

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Exchequer received an average of £4.8 billion a year from 33 privatised companies in the years between 1987 and 1995 through dividends, interest and debt repayments and corporation tax, a new study by National Economic Research Associates (NERA), published today by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), says.

If the proceeds of the initial privatisation sales are taken into account, these companies have contributed an average of £8.8 billion a year over the same period. The CPS, founded by Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph and boasting

John Major as its patron, contrasted these riches with an average drain on the Exchequer from the nationalised industries between 1980 and 1982 of £300 million a year.

The CPS attacked the Labour Party for voting against every privatisation since 1979 and accused it of wanting to penalise successful managements by imposing windfall taxes. "If privatisation is so beneficial to the Exchequer, then what is the justification for its proposed windfall tax," it asked. NERA picks out some companies for special mention. It notes that the Government received £13 billion from its sale of shares in British Telecom.

On top of this BT has generally contributed between £1 billion and £2.4 billion a year since privatisation. This contrasts with a contribution to the public purse in the four years before privatisation of up to £625 million a year.

NERA attributes the large contribution of the privatised companies to a dramatic improvement in the profitability of the privatised companies which has led to significantly higher corporation tax receipts; dividend receipts from those firms in which the Government kept a substantial residual shareholding; and continued interest receipts and repayments of government debt.

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Rachel Bridge on the Australian Stock Exchange becoming listed

Moving even nearer to the market

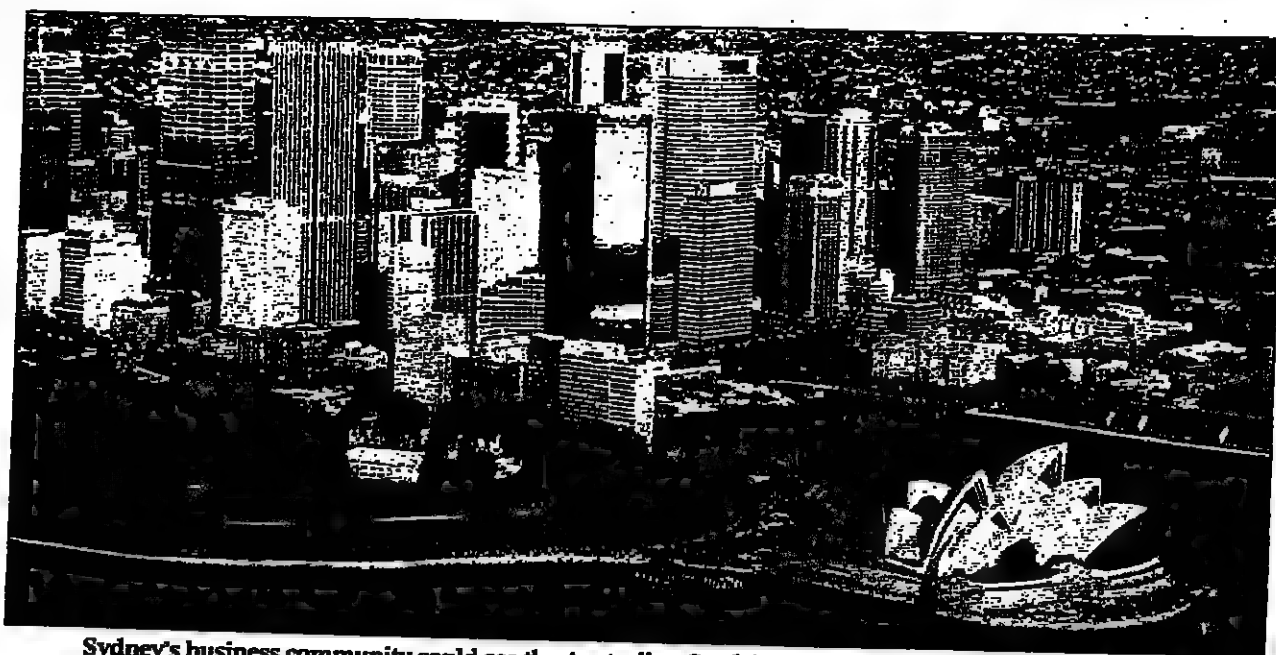
The Australian Stock Exchange has moved a step closer to realising the ambitious dream of becoming the first exchange in the world to secure a stock market listing, with a target value of A\$150 million (£75 million).

While a handful of stock exchanges around the world, including Stockholm, Copenhagen, Athens and Amsterdam, have taken the first step of demutualisation not one has yet attempted the next big step of a stock market float. And the London Stock Exchange is monitoring the Australian Stock Exchange's progress.

The London Stock Exchange said: "Any new development that an exchange around the world undertakes we monitor with interest and take a keen interest in. For the last two years we have been looking at what people are doing around the world and from that we've drawn up a strategy."

It added that it had ruled out any form of demutualisation at present, but said it was something it might consider in the future.

Members of the Australian Stock Exchange are scheduled



Sydney's business community could see the Australian Stock Exchange's shares trading in early 1998

to vote on the demutualisation proposals next month. Richard Humphrey, managing director, said that the exchange's shares could begin trading in early 1998, pending government approval.

There is a growing feeling among the exchange's mem-

bers that the existing mutual status is outdated and inappropriate. The Australian Stock Exchange is currently owned by 520 stockbroking firms. All revenue earned from company listings is channelled back into development.

Under the new proposals

exchange members would be allocated an equal number of shares regardless of size or length of membership that would be immediately tradeable on an unlisted basis and eventually open to anyone — whether individuals, companies, institutions or even

other stock exchanges — once the shares are listed. Maurice Newman, the Australian Stock Exchange chairman, said: "What we're about is trying to make our market as deep, as liquid, and as competitive as we possibly can. The mutual structure has served us

well, but we now have to change to grow. I think we will be able to make decisions more quickly and be more flexible and, therefore, more responsive to market change."

He added: "The only conflict we have got to avoid is to ensure that the Australian Stock Exchange is not supervising itself." He has suggested that the exchange should be regulated by the Australian Securities Commission. To prevent any unwelcome advances from over-enthusiastic foreign exchanges, a 10 per cent limit on share ownership is being mooted.

Mr Newman insisted that a corporate structure would enable the exchange to react faster to opportunities emerging in the global financial arena. "We need to change to grow. It's not the big devouring the small any more, it's the quick devouring the slow."

The exchange's stockbroker members seem in favour of the move. One said: "After many years of paying in to the exchange, the prospect of a regular dividend is pretty attractive. I would be very surprised if the proposal gets knocked back."

Yes, but which department?

APPLICANTS for the Which? credit card, run by Beneficial Bank and unsurprisingly declared a "best buy" in the Consumer's Association magazine, can start filing their complaints. Beneficial has been forced to send out apologising letters. The bank has run out of application forms and is midway through "a print rerun". A call to customer services inquiring how long the rerun might take, brought only a suggestion of making another phone call to the bank's applications department, who then asked "Could you ring customer services, please?"

Travel wise

EXECUTIVE travel has never been so hectic or so cheap, for Mercury Asset Management which sent a team of two to Arizona over the weekend, without packing their wallets. To raise money for St John Ambulance, MAM raced against City teams to get as far away as possible from the Tower of London in 24 hours without spending any money. Female employees from the Woolwich Building Society dressed as Bond girls went to Paris, while solicitors from Ashurst Morris Crisp took a circuitous route — by horse, milkfloat, roller blade, coach, plane, and being rowed down the Thames by Olympic oarsman Jonny Searle — to Washington.

Bluff called

BBC business presenter Adam Shore adopts a character not uncommon in the City when he competes in tonight's *Call My Bluff*. The doe-eyed presenter of *Business Breakfast* and *Working Lunch* teamed up with comedienne Sandi Toksvig and Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP for Billericay, for the historic game show chaired by cult hero Bob Holmes. All was fun and games, until it came to the ten-minute dash for the 100. "Teresa

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Gorman was amazing. While we wandered out, she started canvassing among the audience and absolutely refused to follow," opines a somewhat overshadowed Shore.

CHANGING the courtyard at Guildhall as part of a programme to turn the City has not been a simple process. The cobbles that were laid not that long ago in Guildhall Yard East, were pulled up and replaced with faux marble flagstones. Then a minion to the Lord Mayor tried to get out of the historic building, only to find that because of the new flooring, the automatic doors could not open.

Romanian star

SIR Rowland Whitehead, the 66-year-old skydiver and former managing director of mergers and acquisitions at Brown Shipley, will succeed Sir Raymond Appleyard as president of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting. Sir Rowland, who cites "rural indolence" as one of his pleasures in *Who's Who*, is also working on a competition for rising business stars in Romania. He has set up the Thatcher Prize for Good Business, and his fingers are crossed that Lady Thatcher will travel to Romania in May to present the award. Meanwhile, Sir Rowland is whizzing to and from Romania in a desperate bid to learn the lingo.

MORAG PRESTON



Adam Shore mixed comedy with politics on TV

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

ASILUS

(a) A member of a genus of flies belonging to the order Diptera, family Asilidae. QA hornet-fly, hawk-fly or robber-fly. From the Latin *asilus* a gadfly. "They discuss the asilus and the ostrum."

FLAMINGANT

(a) An advocate of the recognition of Flemish as an official language of Belgium, or of the exclusive use of Flemish in certain parts of Belgium. French *flamenge*, Dutch *flaming*. "They (ie the Walloons) consider the Flamengants to be unpatriotic and pro-German."

DALCROZE

(a) Eurhythmics. An eponym of E. Jacques-Dalcroze (1865-1950), a Swiss exponent of musical education through physical exercises, used attributively and elliptically to designate his system, the movements involved, or an institution where the method is taught. D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*, 1920: "Will you sing while I do Dalcroze?" "While you do —?," she asked vaguely. "Dalcroze movements," said Gudrun.

BATAVIA

(b) A kind of shot silk material. A toponym of the former name of Djakarta, capital of Indonesia. "A new shot silk, known as Batavia. Smart little coats carried out in this Batavia silk look particularly well."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rcl+2 Qcl (if 2 Rcl Qxd2) 2... Rxa3+13 Kbl (if 3 bxa3 Qa2 mate) 3... Ral+4 Kxa3 Qa3+ 5 Kbl Qa2 mate



Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 11 July, 1996 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 16 September, 1996.

Gross Distribution per unit	1.92500 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0.28875 Cents
Converted at \$1.575	1.63625 Cents
	£0.01038889

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY, National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 16 September, 1996

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IMF looks at 'gold for poor' again

The International Monetary Fund will start talks again on Wednesday over a controversial plan to sell part of its gold reserves to finance debt relief for poor countries.

Stanley Fischer, IMF first deputy managing director, said that an agreement was not in the bag but looked very likely. The IMF would sell around five million of its 104 million ounces of gold under an idea floated and campaigned for by Britain. It has met staunch opposition, particularly from Germany.

New care plan

Care for older people should be free at the point of delivery but supported by a new system of compulsory care insurance contributions, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation proposes today.

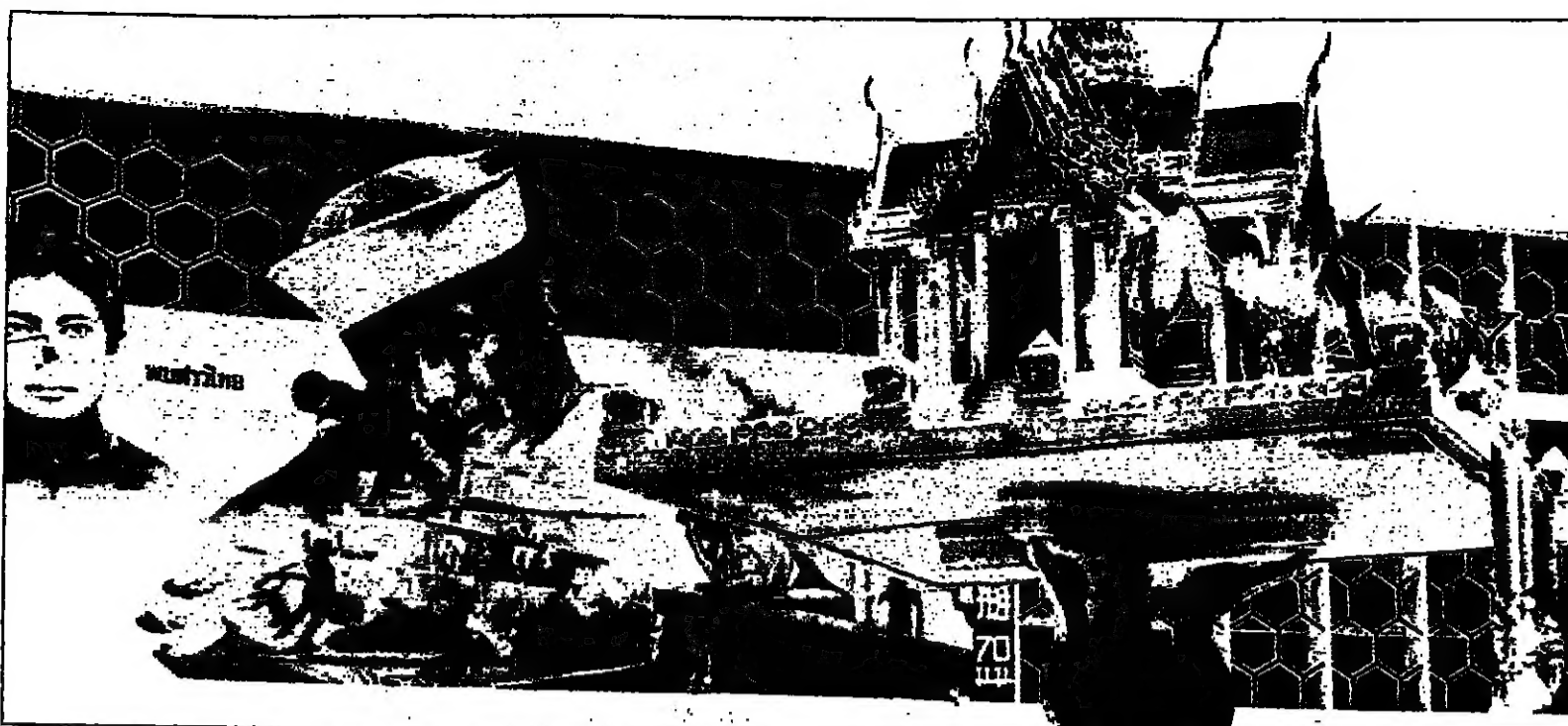
It estimates that its scheme would initially add £540 million a year to public spending but that there would be substantial gains for taxpayers as the fund grew.

Drug project

Peptech, an Australian pharmaceutical research company working on commercial uses for peptide-based technologies, plans to raise at least £10 million by a private placing in London and to seek a secondary listing on the Stock Exchange. Peptech is looking at drugs for human and veterinary use.

Schools study

The standard of local schools is one of the key factors affecting long-term regional economic performance, according to a new study published by Business Strategies. The study found that areas with higher proportions of school-leavers with no qualifications had weaker economies.



A cinema in Bangkok, where the British company Pacific Media aims to transform movie-going in partnership with United Artists of the US

BA attempts to smooth way for alliance with American

By JON ASHWORTH AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH AIRWAYS has embarked on a final round of intense lobbying as the Office of Fair Trading nears its decision on whether or not the company's proposed alliance with American Airlines should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, has written to BA customers, outlining the benefits of the proposed tie-up. Mr Ayling raises the prospect of shuttle-style services from Heathrow to New York and Chicago, and emphasises that the two carriers would remain legally distinct. Competitors, including

Virgin Atlantic, say the alliance is a merger in all but name.

The debate is now expected to turn on the issue of landing and take-off slots at Heathrow. BA holds 38 per cent of the slots — with American it rises to 40 per cent — but claims the amount is considerably less than at other home-base airports. Lufthansa, which has an alliance with United, has about 63 per cent of the slots at Frankfurt.

Prospects for the alliance have been complicated by the breakdown of talks between the UK and America aimed at

securing an "open skies" agreement. The talks turn on different interpretations of "open skies", which, in a limited sense, means freedom on any route between America and the UK, including access to Heathrow.

BA argues that prospects for "open skies" will fade if the alliance is blocked. This, it says, will mean less competition across the Atlantic because additional US carriers will not gain access to Heathrow. Less competition will mean less downward pressure on fares. BA further argues that transit passengers

account for up to half its traffic across the north Atlantic, and says business will be lost to hubs elsewhere in Europe.

However, BA's rivals insist the American alliance would create a stranglehold on north Atlantic routes.

BA's senior managers will learn on Wednesday how much of the company is to be sold off, with the potential loss of thousands of jobs. A four-month internal study aimed at finding £1 billion of cost savings over the next three years is nearing completion, and first indications of which services are likely to be "con-

tracted out" will be spelled out to managers.

British Airways is determined to cut its costs sharply to compete with European airlines such as Lufthansa, the growing number of cut-price airlines such as EasyJet offering no-frills flights on short haul services and the Channel Tunnel train services.

Staff have already been told that job losses cannot be ruled out, and when the project — known as Step Change — was first announced in May it was made clear that no section of the airline's operations would escape scrutiny.

Pacific Media seeking silver from screens of Far East

By JON ASHWORTH

GOING to the cinema in Thailand or Malaysia may soon become a less hairy experience because of a pioneering British company.

Pacific Media, the AIM-quoted media group, has teamed up with United Artists (UA), the American film giant, to launch a range of branded multiplex cinema complexes throughout South East Asia.

Cinema operators are increasingly looking to Asia for new opportunities. Ten years ago, 75 per cent of all cinema receipts came from America. By 2000, 60 per cent of box office returns are expected to be from outside the US. In South-East Asia, turning "fleapit" cinemas into modern multiplexes, screening westernised films and backed by branded retail concessions, is seen as a formula for success.

Pacific Media's first project, a three-screen cinema complex in Singapore's Bugis Junction, has drawn average occupancy of 52 per cent in its first year, and the company is branching out. A four-screen cinema is to open in Singapore in November, a deal has been clinched in Thailand, and there are plans to expand in China, Malaysia and Taiwan. Pacific Media and UA hope to have up to 160 screens throughout the region by the end of 1998.

Michael Buckley, chairman of Pacific Media, said that the Singapore experience was encouraging. He said: "If you can get this much success in a territory with too many cinemas, what are the prospects for the wider region?" People in Asia, he says, are phenomenal cinema-goers, with seven to eleven visits a year on average, against 3.4 visits in America, and only two in the UK.

Mr Buckley, the former chairman of SelectTV, the UK production house behind such television hits as *Lovejoy* and *Birds of a Feather*, says that cinema in Asia has huge potential — particularly with the multiplex formula. Singaporeans pay US\$5 a cinema visit on average, against \$4.7 across America as a whole (\$8 in New York). He has no plans to tackle the Philippines, where patrons pay \$1 a ticket, but is intent on breaking into Korea. "It is one of the golden markets out there," he said. "There are 12 million people in Seoul, only seven screens in the whole city, and they pay \$6 a ticket." Pacific Media is seeking a Korean partner.

UA spends up to \$3 million a year on travel for scouts seeking opportunities around the world. In its Asian joint venture, UA fits out and runs the

Sell-off possible at BR Property

By KEITH RODGERS

THE future of the British Rail Property Board (BRPB), the state-owned operation that manages commercial estates and the rump of properties left behind after Railtrack was privatised, is up in the air with the appointment of private consultants to conduct a review.

The decision to call in Chesterton International, the property management company, by BRPB has prompted speculation that the Government may be planning a further sell-off of railway assets. The deal, finalised late last week, is thought to be highly sensitive and both parties have refused to comment.

BRPB is responsible for managing British Rail's remaining property interests, which include office buildings and surplus land already earmarked for disposal. It also has responsibility for closed branch lines and structures, which in many cases are thought to be unsaleable but still requiring some maintenance.

Many of British Rail's prime sites such as the White City development, the Paddington basin site, and a number of city centre stations, was absorbed by Railtrack.

There have been suggestions that Chesterton itself may propose taking over management of BRPB's estate portfolio as part of its growing involvement in such facilities.

Instem highlights AIM drawbacks

By FRASER NELSON

THE Alternative Investment Market was shunned last week by Instem — a computer systems company on the Unlisted Securities Market that decided to bypass the junior exchange and seek a full listing.

While the group had nothing against the AIM, up to 20 per cent of Instem's investors hold its shares through a personal equity plan, which they could not do if it moved to AIM.

Together with the unfavourable rules that discern eligibility for capital gains tax relief, these anomalies may prove to be the market's undoing — according to a

report from Albert E Sharp. The broker issues a warning that unless regulation is tightened, AIM may suffer when the EASDAQ exchange opens later this year.

Yeoman, which makes satellite-guided map co-ordination systems, is joining AIM. It has sold 10,000 of its devices, which were first endorsed by the American military.

Three companies joined AIM last week: PolyDoc, Grosvenor Land Holdings and Dartland — all fetching reasonable premiums.

The FT-SE AIM index fell 26.40 points over the week, closing at 1040.30.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.05
Austria S	17.56
Belgium Fr	57.45
Canada S	2.25
Cyprus Cyp	0.769
Denmark Kr	8.46
France Fr	6.43
Germany Dm	2.51
Greece Dr	1.92
Hong Kong S	12.86
Iceland Is	11.86
India Ru	11.86
Israel Shk	5.32
Italy Lit	2.467
Japan Yen	168.40
Malta M	0.802
Netherlands Gld	2.790
New Zealand S	2.56
Norway Kr	10.63
Portugal Esc	202.00
Spain Ptas	166.64
Sweden Kr	11.02
Switzerland Fr	2.06
Turkey Lira	140750
USA \$	1.653

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND
US dollar
1.5543 (+0.0092)
German mark
2.3512 (+0.0241)
Exchange index
86.2 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

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OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE EMPTY RAINCOAT

CHARLES HANDY BEYOND CERTAINTY



'The future from the Handy angle is formidable, not frightening, a totally new opportunity. Handy writes fascinatingly... His argument should command the attention of any citizen who can read, in any job.'

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ARROW

William Waldegrave, the thinking person at the Treasury, made a typically thoughtful speech in the City last week. Its most remarkable feature, however, was what he did not say. The Chief Secretary commends a philosophic ideal of the good economic society. It has equality of opportunity but can only justify inequality of income and wealth if that benefits the worst off.

By deft use of statistics Mr Waldegrave then proves that Britain meets the inequality test. If only people would look at the figures, instead of feeling miserable, they would see that poverty has not risen and they are, if anything, more economically secure. He then shows that America fails the inequality test, along with Australia and New Zealand. Real wages for most Americans on below-average incomes have been static for the past decade.

What comes next? A searching critique of American labour markets, you might think, to find out why the land of the free has become a candidate for communist revolt. Instead, Mr Waldegrave lauds the "Anglo-Saxon" approach and dangles that of continental Europe. The philosophy of workers' protection symbolised by the EU social chapter offers false security, he argues. It deters employers from creating jobs and encourages them to evade the rules. Everyone is worse off if labour markets are inflexible because unemployment is higher and growth lower. And any attempt

Economic ideal of society fails to impress the poor



William Waldegrave

to redress widening inequality via the tax system or a minimum wage would have equally malign effects.

The social chapter is, admittedly, a political sifting duck. Germany, France and Italy are cutting back social protection while they castigate Britain for staying out. The Anglo-Saxon agenda is now the agenda for joining a European currency. The chapter also embarrasses Labour.

The carrot of social protection, expertly dangled by Jacques Delors, converted Labour and the TUC into enthusiastic Europeans. In those days, they saw no hope of enacting such laws at home. Now Labour claims that the social chapter would have hardly any impact and just makes you a good European.

That still leaves the American dilemma. Had the Chief Secretary addressed it, he would doubtless have agreed with his boss, Kenneth Clarke, that Britain wins because it combines free and flexible markets with a social safety net. But this does not really stand up.

Poverty, in work, unemployment or economic inactivity has made social security spending unsustainable. In an earlier role, Mr Waldegrave himself set off the

explosion in housing benefit as a *quid pro quo* for freeing rents. The ensuing high tax burden and high deficits constrain growth and job-creation just like continental social protection. There is constant pressure to whittle away benefits. If Mr Clarke tried to meet the Maastricht tests, he would need more cuts.

America, meanwhile, is clearly not too worried about failing the inequality test. The reason perhaps, is that the vast majority do not feel poor, even though there is a big, poor, hawc-wreaking underclass. But lots of people feel poorer in Britain, a lot more perhaps, than on the Continent. One test is the

number of families relying on means-tested benefits, which has reached ridiculous proportions. Families having to go on in hand to the benefit office feel poor, regardless of their living standard.

Above the lowest levels, poverty is relative, and partly in the eye of the sufferer. The numbers war over job insecurity, low pay and unemployment is to that extent politically academic. Relative poverty is not just about money either. The poor are unlikely to envy the rich if their own values are those of the country.

The social solidarity in Germany's restrictive contract between capital and labour is the equivalent of the spirit of the Declaration of Independence in America. In Japan, almost everyone claims to be middle class.

In Britain, the middle classes are still often thought of as the likes of accountants, lawyers, company directors, plus the odd clubland journalist. John Major thinks inheritance tax is a big issue for Middle England, even though, on a generous interpretation, only 5 per cent of estates are liable. In the enterprise culture, schoolteachers are failures and Godfearing Caribbean families

only hope for redemption through the National Lottery.

This helps to explain why "fat cats" have proved such an unlikely political goldmine for Labour and why the idea of a statutory minimum wage is so popular, almost as much to the embarrassment of Tony Blair as of Mr Waldegrave. Better lifetime training and quick job turnaround may be more effective tools to attack poverty. A minimum wage has more appeal. If the level were modest, say £3.30 an hour, there is also a good chance that it would take more people off benefits than it put on via unemployment.

This is an economic gain but, like the social chapter, mainly symbolic. A more effective attack on poverty would focus on incentives in the tax system. The minimum wage could be most useful as a benchmark for income tax and social security thresholds, matters too important to government finances to allow a commission to fix.

No-one in receipt of means-tested benefits should be paying income tax. The Chancellor could make a big impact on the most glaring area of poverty — single-parent families with children — by doubling the married person's allowance for these families, restoring the link between tax and benefit systems. A sharp rise in the basic allowance should be the next objective.

That is not easy politics. On the tests of opportunity, inequality, and incentive it would take Britain nearer the good economic society.

Marcus Gibson looks into three enterprising small businesses

Iron man wins Euro award

Fifteen years ago Erkki Jyllila laboured into the early hours in the kitchen to perfect prototypes of hospital suction bags using his wife's electric iron.

Last Friday, recognition finally arrived when he was nominated this year's European Small Business Person of the Year at a conference of the European Foundation for Management Development in Vaasa, Finland, sponsored by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, the consultant.

The 51-year-old Finn, whose plastics company, Muovisierres, has slowly built a highly effective distribution network across Europe, with products ranging from hospital essentials such as suction bags to plumbing peripherals including water traps.

The judging panel said that Mr Jyllila had inspired his 40-strong workforce at the company's factory at Kihajoki, 350 kilometres north of Helsinki, to make on — and beat — global markets in spite of intense competition.

He said: "The award will help us convince big companies that we can deliver, even if we are very small."

Mr Jyllila attributes his success to several factors. Muovisierres makes its own plastic moulds, which he believes "gives us complete control over the whole chain of production, and, therefore, our destiny".

He has also packed his board with experienced executives from other exporting companies. "They can tell you if you're dreaming, or if you are being realistic," he said.

The company, which now has distributors in eight European countries, received no help from state or EU agencies other than some expenses for its export staff.

Muovisierres, Mr Jyllila



Erkki Jyllila, this year's winner, and the two other finalists, Carlos Rochas, top right, and Karl Fredmark

said, "was more like a family than a company. Every six months all the staff take a day out together. We go on study groups together, which helps make everyone highly motivated."

The two beaten finalists in Vaasa had equally impressive track records. Virtually single-handed, Carlos Rochas, 41, an entrepreneur and engineer established a high-tech firm in Portugal, no mean feat in a country not known for exporting its technology. This year

sales at Siroco, his precision tool company based near Oporto, grew 60 per cent.

Machines are custom built for a client list that reads like a Who's Who of Europe's auto and aerospace sectors, including Bosch, Ford, Renault, Philips and Sylea, of Toulouse, a supplier to Aerospaceitalia. With no government aid, no brand name and no link-ups possible with local companies,

Senior Rochas had to rely on funds from 17 friends and two small venture capital firms.

The process of getting state aid in Portugal, he says, is "hugely bureaucratic and slow." "If we asked we might get finance for a new spark erosion machine — in six months. But I need to get it up and running in two weeks." By 1998 Senior Rochas expects production will double and improved margins will emerge. Senior Rochas is a graduate

of Jeep. Oporto's little known but remarkably successful entrepreneur programme that started in 1985. Its alumni are now running half a dozen of Portugal's fastest growing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Sweden produced the third finalist. More than 20 years ago, Karl Fredmark, 53, an engineer, watched his boss "being sacked before my eyes". He, too, walked out in disgust, and immediately took the decision to start his own company.

Today he is chief executive of Powerbox International, which produces a million power converters each year and has expanded at 35-40 per cent a year for the past five years. From a rural base, the company's tentacles have spread rapidly across Europe, employing 140 staff — only 40 of whom are located in Sweden.

Mr Fredmark believes that Powerbox has grown rapidly because most of his staff are the children of farmers. "They understand how crops grow and that before you can harvest there are plenty of steps to be taken beforehand... that's a good basis for business."

Mr Fredmark, who travels 150 days of the year, scoffs at government funding. He said: "Very few companies with drive need subsidies. We find it better to concentrate on customers and products rather than chase state subsidies."

The quality of recent graduates, however, has been an acute disappointment. "It takes years before they are able to do a good job," he said. "Swedish universities know nothing about what's going on in companies."

"In fact, I've had an idea. University classes should each adopt a company and follow its progress closely."

Previous winners of the Deloitte Touche award, now in its fourth year, have subsequently revealed their pedigree.

The winner of last year's award, Bruno Bonnell, the 37-year-old French chief executive of Infogrames Entertainment, a fast expanding computer games group, announced a turnover to June of Fr378 million and will declare its first profit figures on October 9.

In 1994, Gerry Lowe, head of Lowe Refrigeration of Northern Ireland, won the award, but, surprisingly, Holiday Autos, the car hire company, failed to make the final in 1995.

Roger Chesley, Deloitte's SME partner in London, says that over the years he has identified some key points in a battleworthy entrepreneur.

He said: "The ones that are successful start out in their early 20s and have never worked for a large company. They are used to doing everything themselves." He added: "Those who come out of large corporations generally don't do so well."

"Entrepreneurs tend to be good team-builders, good at controlling — and maintaining — the focus on profitability, and above all, they can take it one step at a time."

The small steps Erkki Jyllila took with his wife's iron in 1974 set him firmly on the road to becoming a multi-millionaire. Especially as he and his wife own 73 per cent of the shares in Muovisierres.

Going to bed with a poem

A Book at Bedtime: The Nation's Favourite Poems. Radio 4, 10.45pm.

Somebody once said prose is the beguiling of poetry. Or was it the other way round? Either way, it is implicitly why this week's *Book at Bedtime* is taken up with verse. I believe it is the first time a national poll has inspired Radio 4's consistently entertaining 10.45pm slot to amend its terms of reference. The poll identified the 50 best-loved poems in the British Isles. Except for its title, there were no ifs — or buts — about the chart-toppers. It was Kipling's *If*, and John Nettles reads it tonight. Selections from the remaining 49 favourites will be read during the rest of the week by Siobhan Redmond, Greg Wise and Emma Fielding.

The Health of Planet Earth. BBC World Service, 10.30pm.

I thought that *Homo sapiens* got off pretty lightly last Monday when John Murphy launched his six-part inquiry into the environmental mess we seem to have got ourselves into. Apparently, the blame for global warming isn't ours alone. Natural forces are at work, too. In the end, of course, it pretty well comes down to the same thing. Earth may survive, but will we? Part two of Murphy's worrying series notes that, although the Western world has stopped producing and using some ozone-depleting chemicals, the Third World has not. So I'm afraid that an ill wind from China or India could blow all of us good at all.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 9.00am Chris Evans, 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa (Arson) 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, Inc. Newsbeat and the Dance 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Reading 96. Highlights of the best of this summer's big outdoor festivals (22) 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Chris Sugden 4.00am Charlie Jordan. Ace sessions and the morning's latest music mix.

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00 Martin Kellner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy and 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Chris Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Lockwood, with Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 On the Air with Sheila Tracy and the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie (45) 10.30 The Jamesons and What? The News? 12.05am Charlie Mackinn, Inc. 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Alan Lester

RADIO 3

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.30 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.05 Ruzice on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Games that Changed Football. The Hiltopborough coverage 8.00 The Monday Match coverage from Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday from Highbury 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 AM Night

TALK RADIO

8.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Anne Simons 3.00pm Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, Rosini (Overture: The Barber of Seville); Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor); Chabrier (Joyeuse marche); Britten (Cantata No 1: My beloved is mine); Prokofiev (Romance and Juliet Suite No 1) 9.00 Morning Collection, Mozart (Piano Concerto No 6 in B flat, K238); Schubert (Symphony No 6 in D) 10.00 Musical Encounters. Stanford (Irish Rhapsody No 1 in D minor); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 22 in E flat, K482); Dowland (My Lord Wiloughby's Welcome Home) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Antonin Dvorak (Cantata Concerto No 2 in E flat); Mozart (Piano for horn and orchestra, K371) 10.00 Ensembles. A recital by Vanessa Lattuada, piano, includes Mendelssohn (Preludes and Fugues, Op 35 No 2 in D); Schumann (Arabesque in C, Op 18); Grieg (Sonata in E minor, Op 10) 10.45 News 11.30 Composers of the Week: Johann Sebastian Bach (The Career of the Four Freshmen 11.40 Through the Night

RADIO 5

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer (LW) 6.30 News 6.50 Today 8.40 My Name Escapes Me 8.00 News 9.05 Start the Week 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 News: Battling with the Pest (FM) 10.30 Women's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: (0171) 590 4444 12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm Brain of Britain 1996 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers, (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Last September by Elizabeth Bowen (22) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope Lynn Walker reviews Jonathan Miller's production of 'La Traviata' 4.45 Short Story: Tom 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.50 Six O'Clock News 6.50 News Quiz (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Over the Counter (44) (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: Barbedale by Judith Adams.

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FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 196. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE MW 648. LW 196 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100.1-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

Why Labour is no longer feared

As we enter the party conference season, the race for general election victory will intensify — a race that Labour is widely expected to win. Although still apprehensive about the election, the gilt market has grown increasingly sanguine about the outlook for bonds under Labour.

Life under Labour will largely be shaped by the extent of the party's commitment to greater UK integration with Europe. Although the referendum question remains unresolved, and greater economic convergence may be a necessary condition for successful monetary union, it has become clear that there is a much greater chance of UK participation in monetary union under Labour than under the Conservatives. This is positive for sterling and gilts — the prospect of strengthening currency, and of yield convergence against core European bonds, means that gilts are not feared a Labour victory in the way

that they have at previous elections. Meeting the Maastricht criteria would act as a significant constraint on government policy, as, indeed, would two associated measures that Labour have already identified: retaining an inflation target and only borrowing to invest — the so-called Golden Rule. The Golden Rule is open to interpretation: in a strict economic

sense capital expenditure should be defined as net of depreciation — every year a proportion of the capital stock wears out and needs to be replaced. Judging by his comments, Gordon Brown will define public sector investment gross of depreciation — a difference of several billion pounds in a full fiscal year. Nevertheless, the imposition of these conditions would impose significant fiscal discipline on a future Labour government.

The UK bond market likes this prospect, but gilts are still likely to wobble a little before the election. There will be a period early next spring where yield spreads against other bonds are rising — not because of a fear of a Labour victory, but because that victory may not be clear-cut.

Although a Labour victory with an overall majority is our central case, the result is by no means foregone. The next most likely scenario is a hung Parliament, with Labour holding the largest number of seats.

The ability of this government to function adequately would depend on how far short of a majority the socialists are, and to what extent they would have to compromise to form a pact with another party. What is definite, however, is that there would be much more uncertainty about the ability of the government to carry out its programme — and as markets hate

uncertainty, gilts and sterling are bound to underperform.

It follows that uncertainty of the result ahead of the election will produce a defensive reaction in gilt yields. And, in spite of the apparently commanding lead Labour has in the polls, recent "on-screen" betting on the Labour seats has ranged between 330 and 340, barely above the "winning post" for an overall majority of 330.

Because of this uncertainty, we expect that yield spreads of gilts over other bonds will rise in the immediate pre-election period, perhaps by 30 basis points. Then if Labour did attain a reasonable working majority, and subsequently managed the economy appropriately for monetary union, the way would be clear for gilts to outperform other bonds substantially.

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STEPHEN SCOTT
AND DAVID OWEN
Kleinwort Benson Ltd

New wave of sminting sends market prices through roof

By Trudi C. Ling

YESTERDAY saw some of the most extraordinary scenes

ever on the stock market floor as sminting on an unprecedented scale sent prices

piralling upwards and completely out of control. At the outset, rumours of

sminting began to filter in from Tokyo and Hong Kong. Before long, the markets were

reacting with unstoppable force, as hysterical dealers were seen throwing little blue

rectangular packs into the air and shouting "buy, buy, buy!" All dealing was finally suspended when the FTSE burst through the 10,000 barrier. Grown men wept openly on each other's shoulders as they realised they had become instant millionaires several times over. Albert E. Han, the Governor of the World Bank tried to calm the

situation but in reality it was a futile gesture in the eye of the hurricane. The markets are due to open again as normal this morning, but can things ever be normal again after 24 hours in which the entire global financial infrastructure was well and truly sminted? It seems most unlikely.

Makes your mouth a much nicer place.

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scene, when a mewling kitten was coaxed to jump off a high barn roof ("I'll catch you!" called brother John), the camera swung round afterwards on Jeanne herself, weeping with relief. "This is my family in a nutshell," she said in voice-over, "incredible luck, incredible timing, and forever teetering on the brink of disaster."

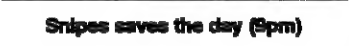
Finally, the *South Bank Show* (ITV) turned last night with an excellent film about Victoria Wood. Its producer, Nigel Wattis, is evidently a fan: exactly the right bits from old shows and sketches were intercut with Melvyn Bragg's interview — the cross-Channel swimming teenager whose parents don't miss her, for example. And an interesting bonus: on the evening when Kimberley received its name by royal decree in *Rhodes*, how pleasant to see what a big laugh "Have you seen my friend Kimberley?" can still get at the

Lynne
Truss

servants and backflashing madly at the behest of the exotic Princess Radziwill (Frances Barber). These scenes were so awkward I found myself chewing the carpet — Barber's Russian accent was impeccable, but I would rather hear fingernails on a blackboard than listen to a Rooshian Meestery Vooman coax misty memories from a tightly-buttoned man in a bad wig. Did she call him a *golosnoy*, by the

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DOMINANT 43

Tesco gets ready to enjoy the Christmas rush

BUSINESS

POOR STATE 46

Graham Searjeant on inequality of economic society



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Editor to claim £1.4m after sale of Sunday Business

By JASON NISSE

TOM RUBYTHON, the Editor of *Sunday Business*, the national newspaper that has been in administration since June, is poised to benefit financially from the recent sale of the paper to a Yorkshire businessman, while most unsecured creditors are to remain empty-handed.

The details of any payout are to be revealed at a creditors' meeting tomorrow, but Royce Peeling

Green, the administrator of the four companies set up to run *Sunday Business*, has confirmed that unsecured creditors of the main company, Business Newspapers Publishing, will receive nothing.

Group 2000, a dumper truck company controlled by Gordon Brown, a Yorkshire businessman, has been supporting the newspaper since shortly after its launch in April.

Group 2000 said that it would pull the plug on September 4,

causing *Sunday Business* to shut down. But two days later it suddenly bought the paper for an undisclosed sum, believed to be in the region of £400,000.

Creditors were told of the sale in a letter on Thursday. But *The Times* has discovered that the creditors' letter is misleading.

The letter says that Group 2000 purchased assets from two companies in administration, Business Newspapers (Holdings) and Business Newspapers (UK). However,

Mark Beezley, of Royce Peeling Green, said this was incorrect because Business Newspapers (UK) had nothing to do with the transaction, the seller being Business & Fortune Newspapers.

The largest creditor of Business & Fortune Newspapers is Mr Rubythorn, claiming £1.4 million. Two other main creditors are Business Age Inc, a US company controlled by Mr Rubythorn, claiming £306,000; and BF Business Publishing, where Mr Rubythorn is

the only director, which says it is owed £27,000.

A substantial portion of the sale price of *Sunday Business* is now likely to end up with Mr Rubythorn.

The debt he is claiming relates to his pre-launch investment in *Sunday Business*. However, in the prospectus issued by *Sunday Business* in March in an attempt to attract investors, it says: "The founders [Mr Rubythorn and his colleague Anil Bhojwala] have invested £1.5 million in the newspaper." At

no point is this investment described as a loan.

Most of the other unsecured creditors are owed money by Business Newspapers Publishing, the company said in the paper itself to own *Sunday Business*.

Mr Beezley said that the assets of Business Newspapers Publishing are £800,000 of advertising income owed to the paper. However, this would be more than eaten up by a mortgage charge of £1.28 million granted to Group 2000.

Exchange speeds up the news

The London Stock Exchange is today introducing a new electronic news service which will allow companies to make their official announcements directly to the markets rather than sending hard copies or faxes to the exchange first.

The software will become available to all UK and overseas listed companies as well as AIM companies. Christine Dunn, the Exchange's director of business operations, said: "With up to 3,000 announcements being received each week the use of the DTP (direct input provider) service will enable companies to send us their announcements quickly and securely."

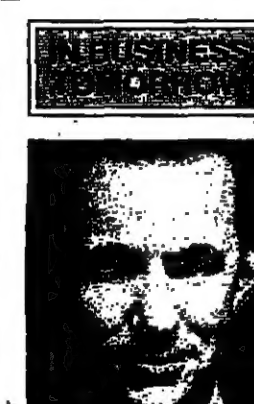
BTR denial

Sources close to BTR were playing down a weekend report that Ian Strachan, chief executive for a year, is planning a mass purge of non-executive directors from the previous management.

BTR last week announced a cut in the interim dividend and a disposal programme for businesses with sales totalling £2.3 billion. The City expects further disposals from Mr Strachan's "new broom" approach.

Lloyd's deal

Lloyd's of London has reached agreement with the state of Illinois that resolves all claims and disputes resulting from the participation of Illinois in the Lloyd's insurance market. More than three quarters of the total US names have accepted the \$5 billion Lloyd's settlement offer.



Stock markets around the world are sitting at all-time highs. ANATOLE KALETSKY wonders why.

Deal near on take-or-pay gas contracts

By CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH GAS is in the final stages of negotiating with two big oil companies a long awaited deal aimed at reducing its exposure to £40 billion of highly priced take-or-pay gas contracts.

The breakthrough in talks with the two multinationals, believed to be Shell and BP, could lead to agreement in several weeks. British Gas expects the deal to be a benchmark for similar agreements with other gas suppliers. Exxon is the third major oil company involved, but its gas interests are mainly in joint ventures with Shell.

The resolution of the take-or-pay dilemma would be a great relief to British Gas shareholders, who have been told that this and the running battle with Ofgas, the regula-

tor, are the two main threats to the company's survival. British Gas is thought to be offering the oil companies part of its Morecambe Bay gasfield as an incentive to reduce the price of contracts struck in the Eighties.

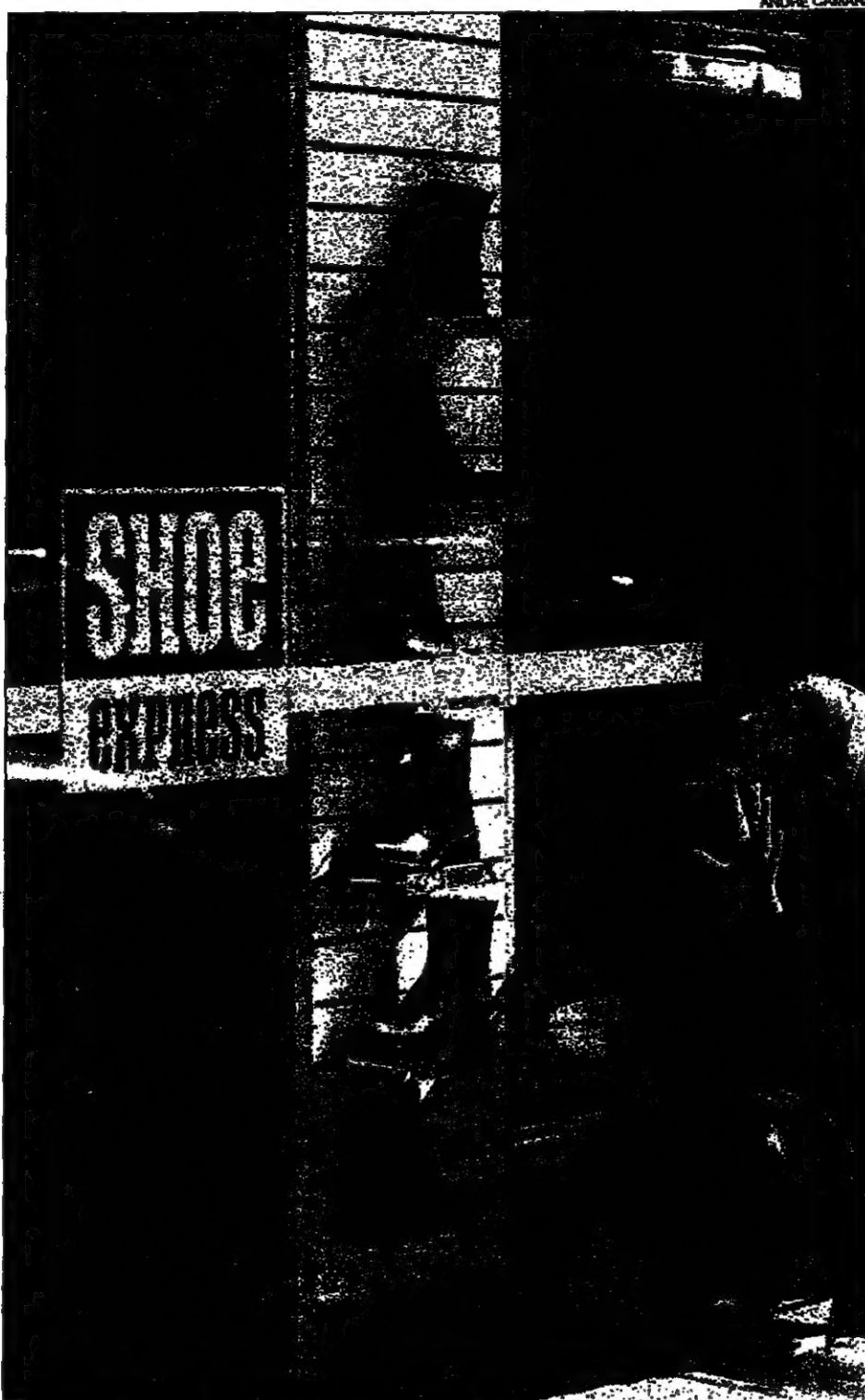
British Gas wants to reduce its average price of gas - now about 21p a therm - to about 15-16p a therm, the approximate level at which long-term contracts are now being negotiated.

Without cheaper gas, British Gas Energy, the company that will take over distribution when British Gas is demerged, will be unable to compete effectively when the domestic market is opened to competition. Spot gas prices are now at 9-10p a therm. British Gas is seeking to

negotiate about £1 billion worth of contracted gas, a value that could equate to a third of the £3 billion-plus Morecambe Bay assets.

A stake in the Morecambe Bay field is more likely to appeal to Shell and BP than a cash payment to reduce the price of the contracts. Both have ample funds, but would be interested in securing access to large gas reserves to supply the UK domestic market and the continental gas market. At present, gas prices are higher across the Channel and exports will be viable when an interconnector to Belgium starts operation by the end of the century.

However, negotiations will be complicated by the existence of an internal take-or-pay contract between British Gas's exploration arm and British Gas Supply. Nick Antill, of BZW, the brokers, says Shell and BP might be reluctant to take minority stakes in North Morecambe without the ability to influence volumes. The field is operated by British Gas and used as a "swing producer" to iron out peaks and troughs in demand. The take-or-pay contracts required British Gas to make an £83 million provision last year for gas that it was unable to sell profitably because of mild weather and loss of market share in the industrial and commercial market.



A worrying trend for Sears at Shoe Express, but increased profits are still expected.

Drop in shoe sales forecast for Sears

By JASON NISSE

SEARS, the retailing group hit by losses stemming from its relationship with the collapsed empire of Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is suffering a worrying fall in sales in its shoe shops, retail sources believe.

The bad news is not expected to emerge in the company's half-year results announced tomorrow. These are expected to show a profit in spite of a £25 million provision taken by Sears when it appointed administrators to the businesses that it sold to Mr Hinchliffe, causing the collapse of the Facia empire. Facia is now being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office.

British Shoe Corporation, the Sears footwear business, has only four brand names: Shoe City, Shoe Express, Dolcis and Cable, having sold a portfolio of other brands to Mr Hinchliffe.

BSC has converted more than 300 of its remaining outlets to the Shoe Express format, which it initially described as a success. However industry sources have said that this year they are suffering a fall in sales of over 10 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Dolcis is also believed to be suffering.

Sears, owner of Selfridges, denies that there are any problems with Shoe Express and Dolcis. However the group is expected to reveal that it is suffering reduced sales in two of its other main operations: Freemans, the home shopping operation, and Adams, the children's wear operation.

Reporting Ahead, page 43

MG braced for purge

DEUTSCHE BANK, owner of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, is trawling through City high-flyers to find a new boss for the fund management business rocked by financial scandal (Martin Waller writes).

A six-week inquiry is under way into MG funds managed by Peter Young, but insiders

accept that there will be a purge of senior staff who failed to exercise adequate supervision. MG has successfully applied to the High Court for a freeze on Mr Young's personal assets and any others owned by trusts he has control over, and he is suspended from his duties and faces dismissal.

Delay feared in Telekom float

By OLIVER AUGUST

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, the German phone group due to be privatised in November, may be heading for a delay in its £9 billion flotation.

Dealers fear that Deutsche may take longer than expected to turn itself into a listed company. An insider close to the deal in London said that a delay in the flotation, the largest this year and one of the largest ever, over regulatory issues is "a strong possibility".

A Deutsche spokesman said that the original timetable was still valid, and discussions about regulation were continuing. "The timetable is always under review, but discussions don't automatically mean there is a delay," he said. "These are rumours flying around the markets."

Deutsche will publish half-year results tomorrow and report on its progress towards flotation. Analysts are expected to question Deutsche on the timetable, which currently envisages trading in the shares starting on November 18.

First-half profit figures are

likely to be 10 per cent lower than last year, according to company predictions three months ago, after tariff changes to make telephone calls cheaper in Germany and the introduction of VAT.

British small investors can benefit from discount arrangements designed to attract German investors to the flotation.

UK investors are formally barred from benefiting from the incentives, under which Germans will be able to buy shares at a discount of between 1 and 5 per cent, and have priority in share allocation, if the issue is oversubscribed, as well as receiving, in three years' time, an eleven share for every ten still held.

However, UK investors can become eligible for these benefits, even without a German passport or a German address, by having a bank account with one of Germany's 35 main commercial banks, through opening one either in Germany or with a subsidiary in Britain, depending on the bank's structure.

Matthew Clark talks to City

By MARTIN WALLER

MATTHEW CLARK, the drinks distributor that started the stock market last week with dire warnings about the impact on the business of "alcopops", or alcoholic soft drinks targeted at young drinkers, is starting a crucial week of talks with institutional shareholders.

Some City sources have been calling for the head of Peter Aikens, the chief executive, and other key executives, claiming the extent of the problem had been concealed from them until last week's shock at the company's annual meeting.

Clark said on Tuesday that alcopops had hit its prime cider brands such as Diamond White and "K", which compete for young drinkers.

City institutions have claimed that until recently the company had been talking down the threat from alcopops. The news of falling cider sales virtually halved Clark's stock market value last week, but analysts failed to see it coming.

Hope of buyback changes

By OLIVER AUGUST

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, has become embroiled in a row over share buybacks by large companies, giving campaigners fresh hope a change of rules will be included in this year's Budget.

Mr Clarke has written to several MPs and signalled his sympathy with their complaints about the ill-treatment of charities. The MPs had highlighted peculiarities in the tax system that allow large corporations and institutional

investors to profit from buybacks but not small funds such as charities.

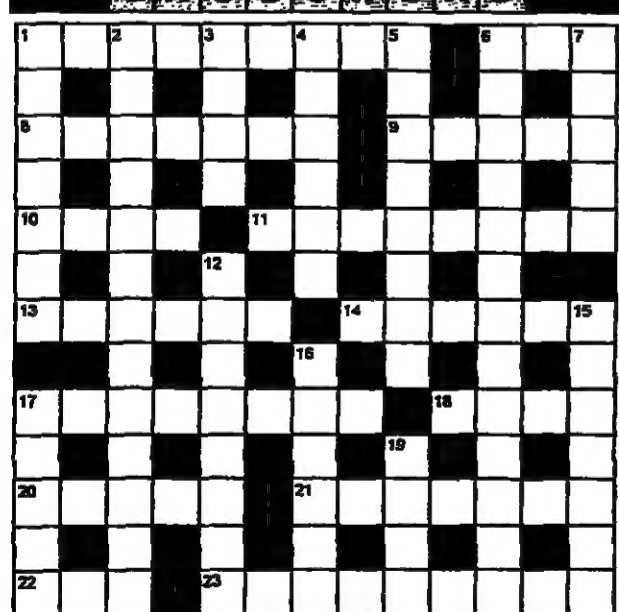
"Gross funds" are excluded from buyback benefits because most large companies that purchase their own shares deal only with large investors rather than making a tender offer to all shareholders, including charities.

Mr Clarke said in his letter that in such cases "a tender offer may provide the greatest possible equality of opportunity for all shareholders".

Leading the drive for a rule change is Alan Diamond, a stockbroker who runs his own charitable fund. He expressed high hopes for an announcement on buybacks in the Budget.

In his letter the Chancellor says "The provisions in the listing rules ensure a realistic level of equality of treatment for shareholders without imposing an undue burden on companies."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 888

- ACROSS
- 1 Ewe's milk cheese (9)
 - 2 Used to be (3)
 - 3 A scientist's shopkeeper (7)
 - 4 Unpleasant (5)
 - 5 Longer forearm bone (4)
 - 6 Sheath (8)
 - 7 Breathe out (6)
 - 8 (Right of) approach (6)
 - 9 Wisdom (8)
 - 10 Burn; daily (4)
 - 11 Jim - frontiersman; his knife (5)
 - 12 Soundly defeat (7)
 - 13 Light-beam (3)
 - 14 Mid-morning snack (9)
- DOWN
- 1 Hermit (7)
 - 2 The public road (6,7)
 - 3 A Lake; sounds like weird (4)
 - 4 Pleasure trip (6)
 - 5 Predilection (8)
 - 6 Strug off responsibility (4,5)
 - 7 Wax-writing tool; manner of expression (5)
 - 8 A shiner (5,3); type of bean/pea (5-3)
 - 9 R.S. - Mr. Sponge author (7)
 - 10 Carved figure (6)
 - 11 Restrained, clear-headed (5)
 - 12 What (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 887

ACROSS: 2 Hercules 6 Jingle 8 Trader 9 Prelude 10 Elect 12 Savonarola 16 Hedonistic 18 Relax 20 Evening 21 Concur 22 Reiter 23 Disperse

DOWN: 1 Lip-read 2 Headland 3 Cartel 4 Lodge 5 Scurry 7 Golgotha 11 Lausanne 13 Omnivore 14 Pioneer 15 Braided 17 Excuse 19 Links

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